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INFOTECH **It's Smart** and it's Android / B12

ACROSS **Ex-Palawan** exec linked to Ortega killing / A12

METRO **12 killed** as fire destroys 100 houses in Navotas / A25

LEARNING **Art** sessions with Muslim teachers / B1

NEWS **Lauro** Vizconde refuses to reveal tipsters on Supreme Court / A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Egyptian president, protesters in standoff

CAIRO—Groups of armed men attacked at least four jails across Egypt before dawn on Sunday, helping to free hundreds of Muslim militants and thousands of other inmates as police vanished from the streets of Cairo and other cities.

The US Embassy in Cairo told its citizens in Egypt to consider leaving the country as soon as possible, a display of Washington's escalating concern about the stability of its closest Arab ally. (See related story on Page A12.)

The Army sent hundreds more troops and armored vehicles into the streets of Cairo and other cities but appeared to be taking little action against groups of young men with guns and large sticks who were smashing cars and robbing people.

EGYPTIAN A10

PEOPLE POWER EGYPT-STYLE Anti-government protesters pray in front of an Egyptian Army tank during Saturday's rally on Tahrir Square in the heart of Cairo, the capital of Egypt. The demonstrators were emboldened by the Tunisians' success in driving out their president earlier in the month.

People power revolutions in Arab world puzzle P-Noy

By Amanda Dacanilla

VIOLENT people power revolutions now engulfing the Arab world in President Aquino struggle to hold the success of his popularity built on the Disney legacy of his election as heir to the bloodless 1986 Edsa I link.

ANALYSIS by his mentors, the late President Cory Aquino.

Egypt yesterday continued to be rocked by violent clashes that began last week between police and protesters demanding the immediate resignation of President Hosni Mubarak and return of democracy after 30 years of autocratic rule.

PEOPLE | A-9

Rabusa to spill beans on 3 ex-AFP bosses

Whistle-blower to detail corruption in military

By TJ Burgonio

WHISTLE-BLOWER George Rabusa is executing an affidavit detailing corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines under Ifen Chiefs of Staff Angelo Reyes, Diomedio Villanueva and Roy Cimatu that could be used by investigating agencies.

"I'm detailing my knowledge of corruption and the rotten system in the Armed Forces," the former military officer said in a brief phone interview.

Following his report on the AFP practice of paying off the top brass with huge sums of ill-gotten off military funds, Rabusa is seen by lawmakers as a credible state witness against the officials.

President Aquino has given orders to the justice and accounting defense departments to investigate the allegations with the goal of prosecuting liable officials.

Rabusa said he discussed in detail the "persona non grata" of corruption, the standard practice of pooling funds for distribution to ranking officials.

By executing the affidavit, he said he was surrendering his testimony before the Senate on Thursday this time "with more facts and [details about] the personalities during my time."

"I'm emphasizing corruption and the rotten system," he said.

In last week's Senate blow-by-blow committee inquiry into the plea bargain between former military comptroller Carlos Garcia and prosecutors in connection with Garcia's plunder case, Rabusa divulged a military tradition of paying off the top brass.

Recalling his supervisor as a budget officer, Rabusa said the payoffs came mainly from an annual payola pot collected

RABUSA | A-7

Nuns dance to get recruits in Baguio City

By Elmer Kristian Dasigay
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Never too old for "bayang."

Catholic nuns on Saturday night danced in this frozen highland inside Baguio Cathedral as part of a vocational drive to recruit new blood.

"There is a dwindling [number]

NUNS | A-9

"CARROZAS" OF CHILD JESUS Catholic devotees from all walks of life join Sunday's parade of "Grand Carrozas" of the Child Jesus, or the Sto. Niño, along Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

Devotees parade Sto. Niño images

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ABOUT HUNDREDS of floridly dressed icons of the Sto. Niño were carried on carriages, barricades Adventists generally prohibited through the streets on his many pedicab bearing his own simply dressed image of the Holy Child.

Every year, pedicab driver Adventists takes part in the Religious' grand procession of "carrozas" on Roxas Boulevard in Manila, hosting the many and varied images of the Child Jesus.

But yesterday, as in the past years, he was outclassed by the devotees' opulent display of devotion.

Adventista's image of the Child God was fixed on the pedicab's roof, simply bedecked in plastic pink roses...a sharp contrast to the other icons sparkling tall in elaborate wraps and adorned with fruit, colorful blooms, feathers, lanterns and gold trimmings.

"This is my way of thanking the Child Jesus for helping me in my livelihood," Adventista, who plies his pedicab daily along Lavezaris Street in Pasay City told the Inquirer in Filipino before disappearing into the festive crowd.

Young and old, able and disabled, devotees braved the Sunday afternoon heat to join the march—organized by Congrega-

DEVOTEES, A-9

UST marks 5th century with pageantry, prayers

By Lisa B. Zuluaga
Arts and Books Editor

POPE BENEDICT XVI gave a rare apostolic blessing via video, tens of thousands of candles blazed with lights and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) began its fifth century of existence amid pageantry and prayers for more than 8 days to come.

Speaking on a specially arranged video from his Vatican desk, the Pope paid tribute to Asia's oldest university for having played a significant role in the Catholic Church.

"I am confident that, keeping in mind the holy and the reason which are always part of a truly integrated approach to education, the university will continue to con-

UST PAGEANTRY | A-9

CLIMATE CHANGE

2010 bodes more weather anomalies

By Helmerson T. Alivaro
Contributor

THE WORLD is finally coming to terms with an inconvenient truth.

Across the globe, leaders are making up-to-the-last-shot goals of warming is a real threat. And its impact is palpable, often immediate—disasters and human suffering assessed first on television or the Internet almost as they occur.

Last month, as the United States prepared for Christmas, its East Coast was buried under the avalanche of gale-force blizzards. This record snowfall was a reprise of a similar month that devastated major cities to the mid-Atlantic region in February last year.

In July last year, an intense heat wave opened Siberian to Mediterranean. By the following month, the weakening drought shrank Lake Mead, America's largest reservoir in Nevada and Arizona, by a significant margin.

There in spring, torrential rains unleashed floods across northeast States and Canada even as summer heat waves ravaged much of the northern hemisphere.

COMMENTARY

As 2011 approached, thousands in Queensland, Australia, suddenly found themselves submerged by floodwaters caused by torrential rains unleashed by La Niña, a weather phenomenon characterized by unusually cold ocean surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific.

CLIMATE | A-8

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49 LOTTO
35 15 | 6 22 20 27
SUPER LOTTO 6/49
4 6 0 9 1 7
4 8 0
SUPER LOTTO 6/49
9 14 17 24 26 45
P47,950,405.20

Vizconde refuses to rat on tipsters

By Cathy Yamsuan

LAURO VIZCONDE said his lawyer said they would rather face contempt penalties than name the court officers who tipped them off about the alleged efforts of Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio to secure the acquittal of Hubert Webb.

"I would rather not go there into trouble," Vizconde said in Filipino in a telephone interview.

"I'm afraid they would be sidetracked by their peers. [Hingmulanda ng mga kaibigan nila.] Besides, I think aside sang mangyayari (nothing will happen). I realized we can no longer get justice after all the effort," he added.

"We are ready to face the consequences," lawyer Rodrigo Lopez said in a separate interview.

"I will have to stand by my client. We'll be ready in case any sanctions we may be given."

In a resolution dated Jan. 18, the Supreme Court gave Vizconde until Tuesday to file reply to the sworn affidavits of three of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals had told the volunteer in separate instances that Carpio was working for Webb's acquittal.

Vizconde said he would still comply with the order. But instead of naming the officers, he is prepared to tell the court this morning that he preferred not to break the vow of confidentiality he gave to those who had served him.

Vizconde is also set to indicate in his compliance that he withdrew "to accuse (Senator-turned-lawyer) Juan Ponce Enrile as the judicial aspect of the case is concerned."

Asked to explain, the widower said he would no longer pursue court-ordered remedies to get justice for his slain family.

Take fight to streets

"I plan to transfer the battlefield from the court to the streets," Vizconde said.

This means devoting his time to becoming the most visible face in rallies to be led by the newly formed People's Movement for Justice.

In 2000, the Pasahapan Regional Trial Court found Webb and six others guilty for the deaths of Vizconde's wife Estrella and their daughters Carmela and Jennifer on June 30, 1991.

While the Court of Appeals affirmed the decision, the Supreme Court reversed the verdict saying the testimony of witness Jessie Alfaro was full of holes and the prosecution failed to prove Webb's guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

Several weeks before the Supreme Court reversed the guilty plea, Vizconde alleged that Carpio was approaching colleagues to vote for an acquittal.

The widower also claimed that justices were paid to free Webb.

After Vizconde formally received the tribunal's order to name the traitors, relatives advised him against doing so.

Change of heart

Stephen Todd Vizconde said that initially, his uncle was thinking about naming the tipsters.

"But later on, at (Tito's) to us (talk)," Vizconde told the Supreme Court, referring to Webb's acquittal.

But he stressed, "para id se ala magkakasuli (so they won't be in danger)," Vizconde explained.

Vizconde said Vizconde told him of his decision not to name the court officers during a meeting on Friday morning at his office in Pasay City.

"Mang Lauro healed (me) and pained. We spent six hours talking and ended up crying. I was sort of disappointed, but in the end, I have to respect his decision. I saw courage in his conviction and sensed that he felt an immense sense of relief of remorse," Tapanes recalled.

DFA: Best to wait after review to bring up VFA with US

By Jerry E. Esplanada

"IT'S BEST" that the Philippines take up its Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the United States after the government has completed its ongoing review of the accord, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Consultations on the controversial pact should be made "after our side's review," DFA spokesperson Lilybeth Mateo told the Inquirer in an interview.

Malaya defended the decision of the Philippine panel to the just-concluded RP-US Strategic Dialogue, which Manila hosted last week, not to consult with its American counterpart on the VFA.

"But having the VFA on the meeting's agenda allowed both sides more opportunities to discuss trade and economic cooperation, development assistance and other matters of mutual interest," he pointed out.

In September, President Aquino failed to raise weighty issues like the VFA and overseeing American troops in Mindanao during his brief meeting with US President Barack Obama at the US Ambassador's in New York.

Malaya had said that "there's a more appropriate time" for Mr. Aquino to take up these issues with his American counterpart.

Starting DFA reporters, visiting US Assistant State Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell said the VFA was "not a subject of our discussions by design."

Campbell called the VFA an "important component of our overall relationship," preceding the legal framework for US forces who visit the Philippines.

But he said "there are other forms and vehicles in which (the VFA) can be discussed to greater detail."

But as far as possibility for Rep. Raymond Palatino is concerned, Washington's opinion does not count.

"The VFA is a matter that should be decided by Filipinos alone," said Palatino.

The lawmaker asked the country's leaders to "uphold our sovereignty by junking the VFA."

"This year marks the 25th anniversary of the junking of the RP-US bases agreement. Let's honor that historic event by junking the VFA and asserting our independence," Palatino said.

Renato Reyes Jr., secretary-general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said "the US has done little to respect Philippine sovereignty since the ratification of the VFA."

"And we suspect they will use the visiting forces unit the recent Makati bus bombing as additional leverage for the extension of the VFA," said Reyes.

He added: "We are already aware that the bilateral strategic dialogue would result in more US intervention in the running whether through the VFA, military aid or diplomatic means."

In August, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced that some 600 US Special Forces troops would remain in the southern Philippines indefinitely.

UNION GALVASTEEL CORPORATION
Davao Plant Certified ISO 9001-2008

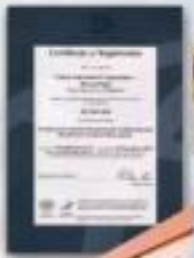
Union Galvasteel Corporation has earned another milestone when the quality management system of its DAVAO PLANT has been certified under ISO 9001:2008. The ceremony was held January 26, 2011, during the Pioneer Senior Executive's Planning Meeting at Mirvold Beach at Island, Panay City.

The certification encompasses the forming of pre-painted and galvanized roofing materials and manufacture of polyurethane panels. This is highly significant as it is the first Philippine Plant in the Philippines to be certified under ISO 9001:2008. UGC's Polyurethane Plant started commercial operations in August, 2008.

UGC's main manufacturing facilities in Calamba, Laguna are already certified for ISO 9001:2008 as well as ISO 14001:2004 for the manufacture, sales and distribution of galvanized and pre-painted steel coils and sheets. With its fast-growing nationwide distribution network consisting of 9 Multi-serving Plants, 10 Warehouses and 2 Sales Offices strategically located around the country, UGC Management has included Davao Plant as one of its Value Plant certified to strengthen its commitment towards total customer satisfaction. For UGC, total customer satisfaction entails maintaining high standards of product quality and customer service, especially in the areas of timely delivery, problem free installation and efficient customer service.

Armed with the corporate values of team spirit, hard work, discipline and sense of ownership, the Davao Plant embarked on the challenge of obtaining an ISO Certification. On February of 2010, an ISO Task Force was formed and trained to work on the documentation and lead the implementation of the Quality Management System of UGC Davao. The ISO Task Force has since been committed to attaining the certification, while at the same time going into the depths of the UGC business process vis-à-vis the ISO 9001 Standards. Ultimately, the team ensured that the UGC business process and the ISO 9001 Standards share the same fundamental goal – to ensure customer satisfaction.

With this new achievement, a new journey towards excellence has just begun. UGC will continue to embrace quality as a way of life by producing Quality Product, living and training Quality People and providing Quality Service to maintain its leadership position in the industry.



Davao ISO Task Force

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Union GALVASTEEL CORPORATION

PHINMA

'Other side' pushes for deeper probe of problem at Stradcom

By Marlon Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) should look deeper into the legal disputes over the ownership of Stradcom Corp. to better understand the violent confrontation that occurred in the information technology firm's office at the Land Transportation Office (LTO) Compound in Quezon City last month, one of the contending parties said yesterday.

In a statement, Rondon Guindulla claimed he was the lawful president and chief executive officer of Stradcom, which has a multibillion-peso contract to provide and manage the electronic database of the LTO.

According to him, the Supreme Court declared him the duly elected chair and president of Stradcom in a decision handed down in January 2007.

"The violent incident of Jan. 5, 2010, at the Stradcom premises was merely an enforcement of the Supreme Court decision," Guindulla said, referring to his takeover attempt which resulted in a scuffle between his group and that of Cesar Quintelino, who also claims to be the president and CEO of the ITTI Inc.

Guindulla urged the DOJ committee tasked by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima with investigating the incident to review the "preliminary determination" of the company's "controlling stocks."

He said this was important so that "the proper control" could be given to the testimonies of concerned persons invited to the the hearings of the investigating committee headed by Justice Undersecretary Francisco Baraan.

Guindulla said Stradcom's committee should not limit itself to the video footage presented as evidence against them by Quintelino.

In the video, LTO chief Virginia Torres and other LTO officials were seen entering the Stradcom office together with Guindulla's group. The group was later ousted by guards of Quintelino's group.

Quintelino has charged Torres with interfering in an internal corporate dispute in favor of Guindulla, accusation Torres has denied.

SEE BACK PAGE OF BUSINESS MONDAY

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Globe

Palace bares new appointments

By Christine G. Avendaño

THE NPC-led Senate Minoritylops Rep. Marlino "Marky" Maxion has been appointed by President Aquino to the board of directors of the John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), just one of the appointments announced yesterday by Malacañang.

Catherine Mary B. Sinaon's nomination by the JHMC board is supported by the President, according to Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte.

Sinaon is inclined to be a member of the Liberal Party chaired by Mr. Aquino. Valte said Malacañang did not announce in the May 2010 elections but for.

Valte also announced the appointments of Secretary Ismael V. Santiago III as acting director of the Land Transportation Office and Mr. Ismael R. Villa as acting director of the Department of National Defense.

Also announced were the appointment of several officials at the Department of Science and Technology.

Those included Jose D. Leviste Jr. as member of the governing council representing the Philippine Council for Agriculture at the Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAMRD).

Leviste, who replaced former military intelligence chief Victor Corpus, will hold office until June 30 this year.

Other members of the PCAMRD governing council representing the private sector who were reappointed were Leonardo O. Segubre and Feliciano B. Cabrera Sr.

Valte also named the new members of the governing council of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development as Dr. Ma. A. Ochaw, Enrico B. Gruss and Modesto N. S. Claudio-Santiel.

The Palace also announced the reappointments as members of the National Commission on Biodiversity of the Philippines of Modesto V. Arance, Bharat C. Bhavsin, Ma. Lourdes S. Rivera, Kenneth V. Hachigan Jr., Antonio F. Jansen Jr., Ma. Cristina Palabrica, Fidmarie Basco Jr. and Victor Marcos Ulysses.

Named members of the governing council of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources Research and Development were Alinda Fernandez, Lina Maria Lavina, Ramon M. Historia, Augusto C. Nadvidad and Philip L. Ong.

Appointed to the governing council of the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology were Lorna Dagadaan C. Cazantes, Alma Bella P. Madiam, Marita Vi Jesus, Antonio S. Villaflor and Asterio S. Villafuerte.

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The school also requires their Secondary 4 and above to take up additional subjects required by the Department of Education for them to be eligible to advance to Grade 11 (formerly 5 and).

Singapore School Manila is also an accredited Cambridge International Centre. They are also accredited by the Department of Education, and is a member of the Council of International Schools.

For more information, visit Singapore School Manila at Lots 4 and 5, Block 2, Nuvo de Magallanes, Alabang, Muntinlupa City or their website at www.singaporeschool.edu.ph. They are also be reached by [illegible] or at [illegible].

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Oil firms roll back fuel prices

By Arry R. Reina

MOTORISTS will get some relief this week as local oil companies slash prices of petroleum products effective today.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. as well as independent players Eastern Petroleum and Total Oil Philippines yesterday announced reductions in prices of gasoline by 75 centavos per liter, and of diesel and kerosene by 35 centavos a liter.

Independent player Flying V Philippines may also cut prices of gasoline by 80 centavos a liter, and of diesel by 30 centavos a liter, based on its announcement last Friday, said Flying V Chairperson Jose Luping Jr.

The latest price rollback followed price adjustments in the world oil market last week.

Other oil companies had yet to issue their respective advisories as of press time.

An added treat to jeepney drivers was the opening of "Pinoy Lanes" by Shell and Petron, as other lanes would give them a P1 per liter discount on diesel purchases.

Luping said Shell began opening three lanes to selected stores starting last Thursday, while Petron opened some discount lanes on Saturday.

He explained in an interview with reporters Friday night that these were no permanent cut yet for these discount lanes as this was purely voluntary. It was a result of the government's call to help cushion the impact of rising fuel prices on the common populace.

Petron, in a separate statement over the weekend, said it would open more diesel lanes in selected service stations in Metro Manila.

Luping said Chevron (formerly Caltex) has also expressed interest in joining up discount lanes.

While world prices of petroleum are on an upward, local firms implemented oil price increases five times since the middle of December last year. As of Jan. 25, the price of diesel had risen to P43.60 a liter, regular gasoline to P48.04 a liter, and E10 gasoline to P53.32 a liter, according to the latest Department of Energy oil monitor report.

The same report showed that the price of Dubai crude rose $0.26 a barrel during the Jan. 17-21 period compared with the previous week's level.

PUBLIC ADVISORY

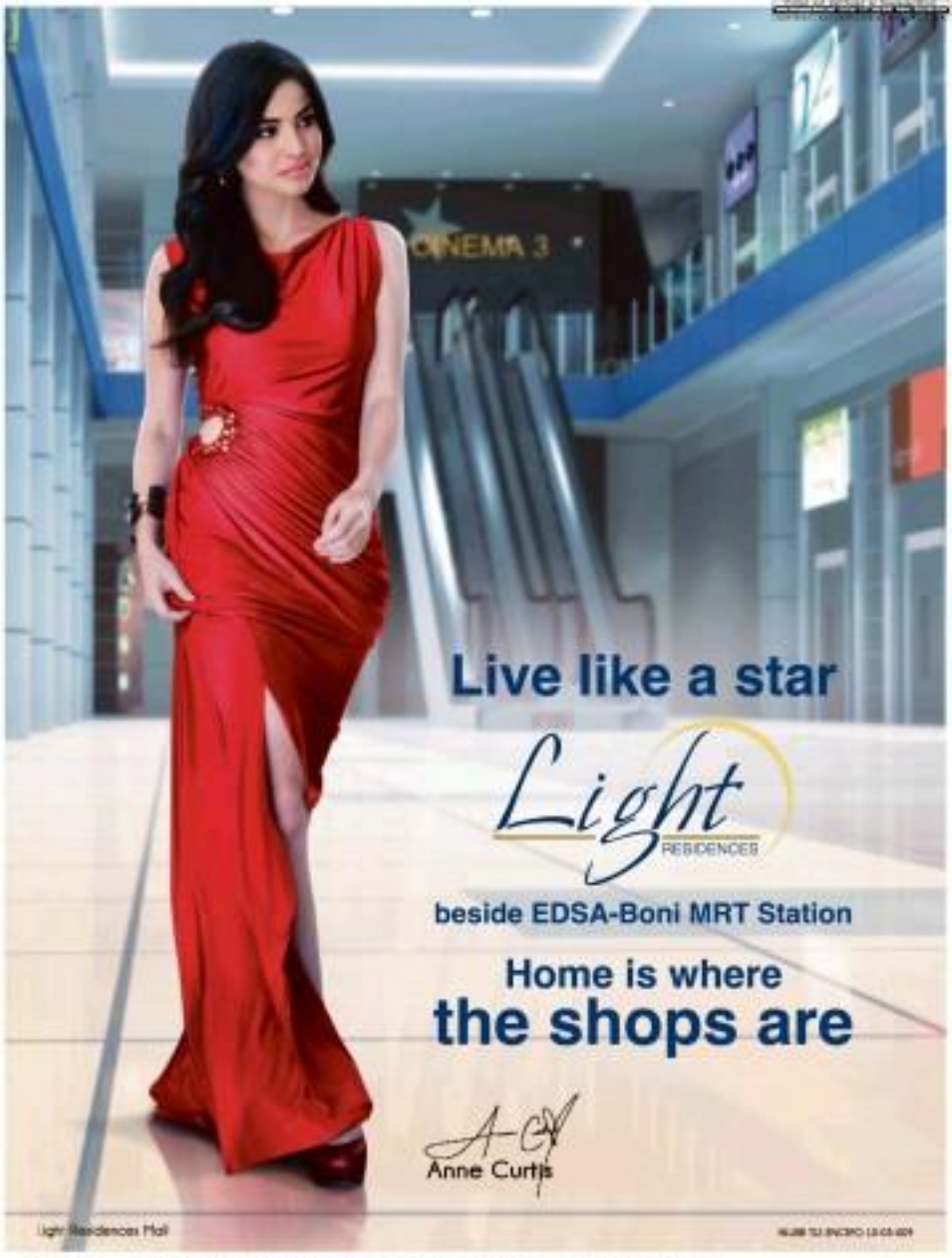
Effective February 1, 2011, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO), will start apprehending trucks and trailers that will exceed the 13,500 kilograms per axle limit.

However, the restrictions on both the allowable vehicle axle load of 13,500 kilograms and gross vehicle weight (GVW), which ranges from 16,880 kilograms to 41,000 kilograms, depending on the number and configuration of axles, will be strictly enforced effective May 1, 2011.

For further information, please call 536-3477 or visit www.dpwh.gov.ph

"Sa tamang bigat, ligtas ang lahat"

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS



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Rolito Go reveals he has colon cancer

By Diana Tu
Radyo Inquirer

ON THE 18TH year behind bars, convicted murderer Rolito Go, a businessman who shot a college student dead in a fit of road rage in 1995, said he was suffering from colon cancer.

In an exclusive interview with Radyo Inquirer, Go said his condition, now in an advanced stage, was discovered in July but was following chemotherapy at the Makati Medical Center (MMC) for a recurring acute ischemic and cerebrovascular.

A biopsy eventually confirmed he had cancer, he said in the interview last week in the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa.

"Yes, that's true," a tearful-eyed and initially evasive Go replied in Filipino when asked to confirm rumors about his illness.

Go also disclosed that he has since been escorted in and out of prison to undergo chemotherapy at the MMC.

Hole in his chest

He showed Radyo Inquirer the hole on his left chest into which a cocktail of drugs is pumped through a tube during therapy.

Smoothly remorseful, Go said he believed he had suffered enough after spending almost two decades behind bars for killing Ga Sallo engineering student Hilton Maguan in a traffic altercation in San Juan.

Driven his condition, Go said he was hoping President Aquino would grant his appeal for a pardon or parole "for humanitarian reasons." He said he would like to spend what's left of his days with his family as a free citizen.

"I may really can't deny I would be acquitted," he said in hindsight. "It was really just an accident. It's true we had a heated argument, but at that moment, I only thought of cooling my gun to scare him (Maguan). It was not my intention to kill him."

Made himself useful

Go said he tried to make himself useful while in prison.

"I helped my fellow inmates. I tutored their children's projects. I had this microfinancing scheme going on to lend money to those in desperate need.

"Don't ask 5-6, he (the it wasn't 5-6)," he said. "I just wanted to help them cope with life here."

Go now shared some of his highs and lows while in prison.

He reported proudly that one of his children had just completed an advertising course at the University of the Philippines. On the other hand, he lamented that none of his eldest friends abandoned him after his case hit the headlines in the 1990s.

NBP Assistant Director Reuben Diaz said that while the prison had a 140-bed medical facility, it lacked the capability to treat cases like Go's.

Subject to the approval of the Department of Justice, inmates seeking more serious medical attention are usually brought to government hospitals. But "in life and death situations," where the patient has to be rushed out of the NBP immediately, formal requests to the DOJ can be deferred, Diaz said.

Prisoners like Go "who can afford it" are allowed to seek treatment in private hospitals, where their family doctors are usually found, provided they sign a waiver declaring they will face the bill, the official added.

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Arroyos file bill vs slow drivers

SLOW-MOVING cars in the San Juan have apparently caused the ire of Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her son, Camarines Sur Rep. Diosdado Arroyo, that both decided to introduce legislation to put drivers in their place.

Mother and son are joint authors of House Bill 1576 which proposes stiff fines and penalties against slow drivers who toll in the fast or passing lanes designated for overtaking.

They proposed a P10,000 fine against violators and a three-month suspension of their license.

They said slow drivers who travel in the fast lane not only cause traffic jams but are also road hazards.

"A big number of traffic accidents on highways are caused by slow moving vehicles," said the Arroyos in the explanatory note to their bill.

The bill mandates the Department of Transportation and Communications to place and maintain on highways official signs directing slow moving traffic to use the outer or right-most lane except when overtaking. Ed Cabuenagan

THE DAILY GOSPEL

JANUARY 31 (Monday)
Psalter: Week 4
John Bosco—Feb Week in Ordinary Time
Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24
Let your hearts take comfort, all who hope in the Lord.

1st Reading: Heb 11:32-40

Brothers and sisters: What more can I say? There is not enough time to speak of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, as well as Samuel and the prophets. Through faith they fought and conquered nations, established justice, saw the fulfillment of God's promises, shut the mouths of lions, ... they were weak people who were given strength to be heroes in battle and repulse foreign invaders.

Some women recovered their dead by an unwritten law there were others persecuted and tortured followers who, for the sake of a better resurrection, refused to do what would have saved them. Others suffered shame and pillory. ... Moreover, although all of these were praised because of their faith, they did not receive the promise because God had in mind for us something better, so that they would not be perfected except with us.

Gospel: Mk 3:31-35

Jesus and his disciples arrived on the other side of the lake in the region of the Gerasenes. No sooner did Jesus leave the boat than he was met by a man with evil spirits who had come from the tombs. ...When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell at his feet and cried with a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, son of the Most High God? For God's sake I beg you, do not torment me." He said this because Jesus had commanded, "Come out of the man, evil spirit." And when Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" he replied, "Legion is my name, for we are many." ...

Now a great herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside, and the evil spirits begged him, "Send us to the pigs and let us go into them." So Jesus let them go. The evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs, and immediately the herd rushed down the cliff and all were drowned in the lake. The herdsmen fled and reported this in the town. They were afraid. And when those who had seen it told what had happened to the man and to the pigs, the people begged Jesus to leave their neighborhood.

When Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed begged to stay with him. Jesus would not let him and said, "Go home to your people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you."

Reflection:

In our materialistic world today, it is difficult to distinguish what is wrong from what is right, what is the work of the evil spirit from that of ours. It is evident when the grandmother said the devil used our entire people to go to hell because people can do evil with one another. If Jesus were still on today, would it not be difficult for him to locate the evil spirit?

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Disclaimers

14-yr-old math whiz is Sudoku champion

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Timothy James Tan, a mainstay of the national mathematician team, is the country's new Sudoku champion.

Tan, a sophomore high school student at Trinity Christian School in Bacoor City, topped the 14th Philippine Sudoku Puzzle Challenge (PSPC) championships held Saturday in Quezon City.

The students-see, who has been playing Sudoku since he was eight, took home P60,000 in cash and a plane ticket for winning the annual academic competition, the nongovernment Mathematics Trainers' Guild Philippines (MTG).

Tan beat four other contestants during the finals in the grandmaster division in less than five minutes out of the allotted time of 30 minutes.

Tan scored a total of 1,376.33 points for five rounds in the daylong competition, according to Dr. Simon Chua, MTG president.

During last year's edition of the PSPC, Tan topped the contest's wizard category.

A member of the national math team since 1997, Tan has won over 40 medals in various math contests here and abroad.

Interviewed at SM City North Edsa Mall, the contest venue, Tan said he was dedicating his latest victory to "God for helping me win this contest and to my parents (Andrew and Margaret) and siblings (Ethrick and Cait) for their all-out support."

In the grandmaster division, Dennis Andrew Cabanes de Manila University—Ateneo Jan Chua, Matthew Orbe Chan and Mariville Tee—placed second, third and fourth, respectively.

In fifth place was Frederick Ong, a staff member of CFA Standard Investment Co.

Aside from trophies, they won cash prizes of P40,000, P20,000, P15,000 and P5,000, respectively.

In the wizard category, Kurt Jutville Yee of Sister Christian College in Quezon City placed first, followed by Ms. Cristine Lao of St. Jude College in Manila. Jessica Sherry of Regina City Science High School, Bacolod, Joseph Barlongan of St. Mary's College in Bulihan, Bulacan, and Cybelle Linna Ito of Bethany Christian School in Cebu City.

They took home P30,000, P20,000, P10,000, P7,000 and P5,000, respectively.

In the rabbit kid division, Bryan Daniel Esperanza of St. Louis University Lab Elementary School in Baguio City emerged champion, followed by Moira Grace Montalvo of Sto. Angel Elementary School in San Pablo City. Crystal Tuban of the Center of Excellence in Olongapo City, Brian Rodrick Miguel Illana of Divine Light Academy in Molino, Cavite, and Ramos Baptista-Tolentino-Cabagnot in Subic, Zambales.

They won cash prizes of P10,000, P10,000, P5,000, P1,000 and P1,000, respectively.

A total of 161 students and professionals, all winners in the PSPC regional competitions, took part in the contest finals, organizers said.

More than 6,000 Sudoku enthusiasts competed in the elimination phase of the contest held last year at SM malls in 31 cities nationwide and at various schools.

This year's PSPC winners will represent the country in the international Sudoku championships in Singapore, Thailand and Hungary, according to Chua.

Last year, PSPC champion Sarah Jane Guevarra-the Brunei's Asia Pacific Sudoku Challenge's top prize in Singapore.

Sugar to stay costly

THE GOVERNMENT will not be imposing any suggested retail price (SRP) of sugar just yet as the supply is forecast to remain tight, the chief of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said.

SRA Administrator Hermenegildo Gina Montilla, in recent interviews said the SRP of sugar of P52 per kilo mentioned "somewhere indirectly" by this month's the price of sugar. Another sugar was P50 per kilo while smaller retailers were charging P60 per kilo.

The government in December suspended the SRP of sugar at the behest of retailers, who complained that P52 was way below the market price. According to the retailers, sugar should have been at least P60-P65 per kilo.

Kristine L. Alave

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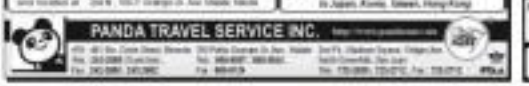

BI unit targets alien visas

THE BUREAU of Immigration (BI) will go after foreign nationals who are in the country illegally through the use of fraudulent documents.

BI officer-in-charge Ronaldo Ledesma yesterday announced the creation of the Intelligence Analysis Unit (IAU) that will gather evidence and build up cases against foreigners who submitted fraudulent documents to get residency or work visas from the bureau.

Ronaldo Ledesma was also researching for visa issuance procedures to ensure that only legitimate foreign applicants were granted residency privileges in the country.

"We will revoke the visas and order the blacklisting and deportation of any foreigner found to have committed fraud and non-appearance to gain residency visa," Ledesma said.

The IAU is under the BI intelligence division headed by lawyer Fortal Ybiosa, who had sought the unit's creation.

Ledesma said the unit will be led by immigration supervising officer Jhevanne Antony

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRES. BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

We, employees of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) and members of the LWUA Employees' Association for Progress (LEAP), wish to congratulate our former Administrator, Dr. Prudencio M. Reyes, Jr., on his appointment by Your Excellency as Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence at the Bureau of Customs.

During his stint as LWUA Administrator, Dr. Reyes made it a point to work closely with the LEAP, especially on the following matters:

1. Securing LWUA's finances;
2. Rationalizing LWUA intervention policies in water districts to prevent abuse by certain LWUA officials;
3. Blacklisting of delinquent suppliers and contractors to protect water district projects; and
4. Championing the rights and welfare of LWUA employees.

It was only during Administrator Reyes' time that LWUA employees, represented by LEAP, were invited into Board meetings to give their inputs on issues under consideration. Other than practicing transparency in the decision-making process, this move also guaranteed that LWUA employees were genuinely consulted on matters that affected them.

Considering the good working relationship we had with him as LWUA Administrator, we are certain that Dr. Prudencio Reyes, Jr. will be an asset to the Bureau of Customs' in pursuit of the President's program of good governance towards poverty eradication ("kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap")

Across the NATION

Ex-Palawan exec linked to Ortega slay

By Nestor Burgos II
Inquirer Southern Luzon

ABUKAY, Palawan—The second suspect, who fell in the hands of the police, broke down and confessed to former Palawan official in the crime, saying he had received an instruction from his executive to assassinate the social member from the gun that was owned by the said former official during the term of former governor Joel T. Reyes.

This developed as Palawan broadcaster and environmental activist Gerry Ortega was laid to rest in his hometown of Roxas Saturday amid an outpouring of support from environmental advocates.

Investigators were closing in on several other key suspects reported to shed light on the identity of the mastermind behind the killing.

Dennis Roman, one of several suspects in the killing of environmental broadcaster Marlon Ortega-Ortega who had been charged for murder, was brought to Puerto Princesa City on Sunday from Baguio, Quezon, by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) for inquest.

Roman was arrested by CIDG agents in Cuyon, Palawan, on Friday afternoon.

He told reporters following his arrival at the CIDG Palawan headquarters in Puerto Princesa that they had forgotten to wear the official sweater supposed to be the getaway cadi, as instructed by a certain Jaspher Bernas "para hindi makitang si alkalde (in that getaway cadi) noon kumukuha."

Roman was referring to lawyer Romeo Resendiza, who was established to be the owner of the .45 cal. handgun that was used in the shooting.

Resendiza had allegedly served as provincial legal officer and provincial administrator.

He had told investigators that he had hung onto the gun in Provincial Legion, also a Capitol employee, Catalan, to care, claiming he gave it to a certain Fernando Nori Lorin, alias Saffadeen.

Police had said Lorin was one of those who accompanied the gunmen when they went to Puerto Princesa by plane on Jan. 19.

Puzzle

Investigators said they were close in unearthing the mastermind behind the killing, adding that they were closing in on Reyes who they believe is the link to the masterminds.

Reyes is reportedly a former mayor and was part of the group of military renegades led by Sen. Antonio Trillanes who had backed the group.

Reyes has said the Reyes family did not have any hand in the killing of Ortega.

Reyes has denied any involvement in the killing of Ortega.

Burial

Thousands of supporters and mourners of Ortega joined the afternoon procession in the cemetery where Ortega's remains were laid.

"The truth will not be in vain. We will make sure that Gerry's dream for Palawan will come true," Glen Lopez of ABS-CBN said.

Ortega, apart from his daily radio program at DZMS Palawan, was project manager of ABS-CBN Foundation's program in Puerto Princesa City.

In his daily morning program, he had repeatedly assailed reckless

GRINDING HUMAS, one of the suspects at the mastermind gunman in the slaying of Palawan broadcaster Gerry Ortega, being fingerprinted at the Criminal Investigation Detection Group provincial headquarters in Palawan on Friday

operations of a certain provincial government official linked to allegations of graft and corruption.

Local heroes

During the final tribute for Dr. Ortega at the public gymnasium of Roxas, the family of the slain environmentalist-broadcaster Gerry Ortega was thanked by the governor and municipal officials.

"If not for them, we would not have been able to capture the gunmen who would have been able to have himself to traffic after he also Gerry," Awel Ortega, the victim's brother, said.

Police said the firearm owned by PO2 Edwin Villares, PO2 Shaddy Prader and Pfc Jhl Willem Lorin donated upon the fleeing gunmen when he escaped from the gunmen scene and into the street after he shot the victim.

The Ortegas pursued the gunmen until he was removed in a parking lot of a commercial establishment.

Roman Paman, secretary general of the National Union of Journalists (NUJP), said in an interview that they would ask the Department of Justice and Malacañang to beef up the capability of the investigating body working on the case "so we don't lose the momentum after something a lot of evidence from the suspects to unmask the mastermind."

Paman also expressed concern over the possibility of escaping evidence in Palawan "while the mastermind remains undisturbed and at large" and urged local authorities to be more vigilant.

LTO men in car theft face probe

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Investigation on employees of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in some Mindanao areas had started on suspicion they are involved in car theft syndicates, said Supt. Gregorio Pascual, the police's Highway Patrol Group (HPG) chief for Northern Mindanao.

The suspicion was prompted by the arrests of issuance agent Charlie Uies in Butuan City in October. Related from his office were registration documents, including blank LTO forms.

Pascual said Uies would have headed a syndicate that operated in several parts of the country based on text messages found on the phone's confiscated from his possession.

The text messages, he said, came from individuals living in Metro Manila, Sanchez City Cotas and Tacloban, Region 8. He said, "It is detailed the scope of their operations," he said.

Uies said LTO employees might have been helping Uies's group and others on theft syndicates by selling them blank cars, car vehicle registration papers.

"We want to file strong cases against these scalawags. We want to build solid cases against them because we don't want our work to be wasted on the 'technicalities,'" he said. Bobby Lagos, Inquirer Mindanao

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Team formed to dig into illegal logging

LUCENA CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has formed an investigating team to dig into the accountability of its Quezon employees in the worsening illegal logging problem in Sierra Madre, according to Nilo Tamayo, Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) environment executive director.

"Everybody will be covered by this inquiry, from Peter (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer) Emrich for down to those the environment of Sec. (Ramon) Paje's program to get rid of corrupt and incompetent from the ranks," Tamayo said over the phone Friday morning.

Tamayo ordered 21 personnel in Quezon three days ago because they allegedly failed to stop illegal logging in the Sierra Madre.

Paje, in a text message to the Inquirer, said he welcomed the investigation. He said the investigation would reveal the true story behind the recent discovery of log traps in Mauban and Unisan river in the boundaries of Aurora and northern Quezon.

Catholic Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona, head of the Parishioner of Infanta, also welcomed Tamayo's order.

"Any move of higher authorities to clean DENR is always a welcome news for us fighting for the protection of Sierra Madre and our area. But the clean-up campaign should be serious and continuous," Tirona said.

But for Sierra Madre watchdogs, Paje should let the Bureau probe the latest crackdown against illegal logging syndicates and protectors from the government.

Fr. Pete Montallana, chair of the Save Sierra Madre Network, and Nap Bernabe, an Agta Dumagat tribal chief, both called on Environment Secretary Ramon Paje to remove Reyja from his post.

"The rampant illegal logging could not happen without nothing from top DENR officials in the province. He (Reyja) should be removed permanently in Quezon," Montallana said.

Reyja said a committee would be improvised to look into the DENR-Quezon allies.

"Before they ask for my relief, they should first conduct investigation. It is wrong to ask for my removal even without basis when I'm working hard," Reyja said.

In 2008, Reyja was sacked as DENR-Quezon chief due to allegedly failed to stop illegal logging in Sierra Madre.

The managed to return to his old post last year.

—Duffy T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

1 dead in Army clash with Negros rebs

By Carla P. Gloria
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Armed clashes erupted anew between government troops and New People's Army rebels in the hinterlands of Calatrava and Toboso towns in northern Negros on Saturday, leaving an alleged leader of a rebel squad killed, the military said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Isabelo de los Reyes, Civil Military Operations officer of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, said the slain rebel was identified so far as his alias and believed to be a squad leader of the Kilusang Larangan Nandoon Negros) headed by a certain "Ka Ronel."

The first encounter took place at about 11 a.m. on Saturday in Sitio Pinamaobohan, Barangay Cambagtic, Calatrava, between Army troops from the striking unit of the 3rd Infantry Division led by Lt. Japhanbee Tagoranao and about 150 armed rebels.

The gun battle lasted for about an hour and when the rebels fled, they left behind their slain comrade, whose uniform was issued once to the Calatrava Police Station, according to De los Reyes.

A handbag with seven magazines of M-16 rifle ammunition and seven rifle grenades were recovered from the possession of the slain rebel. Three handguns containing personal belongings and explosives and detonators were also recovered from the encounter site, he said.

Five hours after, Dr. los Reyes said a blocking force composed of 62nd Infantry Battalion soldiers headed by Lt. Jay Calalo also encountered a group of fleeing rebels in Sitio Tal-angan, Barangay Tabacon, Toboso, the town that adjoins Calatrava, around 130 kilometers from Bacolod City.

No casualty was reported on both sides. Pursuit operations were underway until Sunday, said De los Reyes.

INQUIRER

OPINION

'Pabaon'

EDITORIAL

ANGELO REYES, one of the most articulate Armed Forces chiefs of staff in the last fifty years or so, has slammed himself, on live television, with his first statements after being directly accused of corruption. The general, who led the AFP's withdrawal of support from scandal-struck Joseph Estrada in 2001 and who throughout Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's entire term served as secretary of one department after another could not muster an outright and unpunctured denial when a former military budget officer, George Rabusa, said he had personally handed over to Reyes some P50 million worth of pabaon or retirement gift that was as illegal as it was traditional.

When an innocent man is accused of something evil, we would expect him to vigorously defend himself. We would not expect him to face his accuser and ask: Was I more evil than others? Barring any special circumstances, we would expect an unjustly accused person to fight the accusation. We would not expect him to face his accuser and ask: Was I more guilty than the others?

But that is exactly what Reyes did, when in a surprising twist in last week's Senate hearing on former military comptroller Carlos Garcia's controversial plea bargaining agreement, Rabusa appeared as an unexpected, and unexpectedly forthright, witness.

Reyes asked Rabusa: "Ako ba ay naging *gansi* o *nanay ganang nung sinoy nung* pondo? Hanggat ito aba ng pera ay iyo hahi-hatiin?" (Did I become greedy or selfish when I was in office? Did I ask for money from you at any time?)

As columnists Randy David wrote yesterday and Conrado Quiros argues today, these questions of Reyes' are highly incriminating. We agree. They do cast only suggest that a crime or a series of crimes had been committed. they suggest that the tradition which military chiefs and military budget officers find themselves in is corrupt to the core.

Eventually Reyes did come around to denying the pabaon. When he was pressed to confirm or deny Rabusa's accusation, Reyes said: "I cannot remember accepting the P50-million pabaon." Now this is a clear case of what in the Watergate era was called the non-denial denial. The statement does not really deny the fact of the illegal gift; only that Reyes has an active memory of it.

Isn't this surpassing strange? A highly educated officer (Philippine Military Academy, Harvard University) cannot remember if he had received a little over a million dollars? (Rabusa said he and his comptroller at that time conceived the retirement gift into dollars, because the pile of pesos would have been too bulky.) If either Reyes is an extremely rich man who cannot remember mere house change like P50 million, or he had received P50-million packages more than once and therefore cannot reasonably be expected to remember every single instance, or his retirement (he was feted by a nation still beholden to Edsa II, and about to be named defense secretary) was a painful experience and he chose not to remember it or its details. Or he lied.

The question Reyes chose to ask Rabusa, when the Senate granted him the privilege of confronting his accuser, suggest the last possibility. For the question to reveal the normality of a high official who did not to fact see anything wrong with the practice of lavish but secret retirement packages, or of monthly discretionary and (again) secret allowances (as much as P5 million, Rabusa said) for the AFP chief of staff to spend as he pleased. In other words, Reyes defended himself by pointing out to Rabusa that he had in fact acted ethically, within the limits of the free-spending military tradition. Did I ask for more money? Was I greedy?

Sometimes the culture of corruption in a particular institution is so pervasive, such a daily and commonplace experience, that the corrupt no longer see their acts for what they are. Worse, as the Reyes example seems to prove, the culture of corruption can be so taken for granted, so mistaken for a merely inherited tradition, that by not asking for more, by not abusing his position, a beneficiary of an illegal act can even delude himself into thinking he was acting with honor and integrity.

Like we said: Barroso to the core.

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More guns mean more crimes

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HOW IS criminality so high in the Philippines and why can't the police minimize or stamp it out? The answer is coming as old as the law has the police and Congress always says to use it. It is the prohibition of guns. It is necessary for only a body licensed to acquire guns, whether legally or illegally.

There are gun stores everywhere displaying their deadly products, tempting people to buy them. Some government will do their paperwork for the customers. Even policemen in police headquarters in Camp Crame do that. Go to the Firearms Section and say you want to buy a gun and that gun is what you will help you. They do their do-that instead of discouraging citizens from acquiring guns? Because they get a commission from the gun store for every gun sold.

Now and then, there are gun dealers in the shopping malls where one can buy guns. They will not take no for gun-paper work for you. There are numerous gun dealers in Quiapo where one can legally acquire guns. Why are there many gun stores here where there is no wildlife here to hunt? What the dealer members do is practice combat shooting. Ngunit, ano ba? What the gun clubs do is to encourage the selling of guns.

The equation is simple. The more guns there are the hands of people and users of arms would get killed. Guns are designed to kill, nothing else.

Isn't it elementary that if you reduce the number of guns in the hands of citizens, fewer people would get killed and fewer crimes committed where more private citizens are rounded and with the use of guns?

We have the examples of other countries regarding the relation of guns to crime rate. The nations with the highest crime rate are those that in the United States, largely because of its liberal gun laws. Many Americans recognize that that is the reason the Congress cannot pass a law restricting the ownership of guns because a provision in the US Constitution guaranteeing every citizen's "right to bear arms."

There there is the National Rifle and Pistol Association (NRPA) which is an association of gun manufacturers, gun dealers gun clubs and gun owners. The gun business is so profitable that the association has so much money to lobby against Congress passing some gun laws. Politicians, including the American Presidents are afraid to go against the NRPA because of the clout. Recently, his expectancy in the US is three years, on the other hand, there is the example of Japan which has very strict gun laws. Not surprisingly, it has also the lowest crime rate.

Now which is the thing Bathaved that we should follow?

• • •

With the employment shortage and so many applicants looking for jobs, you would think that companies would have no problem finding the workers they need. But in the field of promoting and selling products, it seems. Two companies are now fighting over private mercenaries selling electronic products.

A manpower agency, Tempo & Staffers Inc. (TSI), has filed charges of "large-scale illegal recruitment involving economic sabotage, estafa and theft" against Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. (Sepco) for allegedly pirating its personnel. TSI is in the business of manpower recruitment of promo-merchandisers. It claims it has invested time and resources in training the promo-merchandisers but that Sepco lured them to be the latter's employees.

Sepco, on the other hand, says Sepco is a consumer-affiliates that involves the Department of Justice. TSI's charges are baseless and were meant only to harass them, it said.

Sepco is engaged in the marketing and distribution of its products through end of electronic products and it says in the business of recruitment of promo-merchandisers. It said, Neither did employees of Sepco induce the members of TSI to resign as in their manpower agencies engaged by Sepco, it added. The contracts between TSI and its promo-merchandisers are co-existence with TSI's contracts with Sepco, Sepco says, the affected promo-merchandisers decided on their own whether to wait for a new job assignment with TSI or seek employment elsewhere.

Sepco also said there is no truth to the charge of estafa and theft because there is no allegation that any money or property of TSI was voluntarily given or involuntarily taken by Sepco.

TSI claims that its promo-merchandisers' contracts/assignments/projects were pirated or taken from it.

TSI should look into how it comes to employees. Sepco said, "Laborers are not the property or chattels of their employers."

How promo-merchandisers or TSI wander off to a company convenience without villainy. Sepco holds a minimum of two training sessions per month for each promo-merchandiser to equip them with effective selling techniques and boost their knowledge of the Samsung products they are to sell.

Moreover, business process is not a personal property. Sepco said, "It is a collection of activities designed to produce a specific output for a particular market. Business relations, processes and/or systems are not copyrighted and hence [it] not considered as intellectual property. In short, it is a mere concept or idea which cannot be appropriated by the concept of criminal law defining and punishing theft," it said.

TSI alleges that there is an unwritten agreement between itself and Sepco that the latter would pay a premium or a fee should Sepco hire TSI's employees. However, Sepco cites Section 13 of the Invitee Contract between the two parties which says that the agreement "constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all previous agreements and understandings between the parties, whether oral or written, with respect to the subject matter hereof."

Sepco also said it has an intention of allowing TSI's promo-merchandisers. It relies on manpower services to provide that manpower.

Samsung Electronics is committed to acting as a responsible corporate citizen in the Philippines, it said, and conducts its operations in accordance with international labor standards.

Method in the madness

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RODOLFO REYES had one interesting question when the senators agreed to allow him to cross-examine George Rabusa. Rabusa had just unloads bits of amazing a former while serving as AFP chief of staff are laws defense secretary.

His question was: One, did he pardon in "the preparation and distribution of the procurement for confirmed-directed activities"? Two, did he accept?

Those questions do not help him. They do not exculpate him from his final, they strengthen him all the more to it. They do not point him in highest terms, they point him to the highest. He has merely enlarged the scope of the guilt to include his favorite institution.

Rabusa had a ready answer for the first, which was pretty damning. Yes, sir, I was the one who made the decision of the "deals," because you delegated the function to me and trusted [Lt. Gen. Lieutenant Lapu who further] accomplished. The implication that I hasn't already done you that. Why would I do that? Ang primitive ng alingasngas. Dun don't make me say anything that would compromise me."

That doesn't just damn Reyes, though it is enough to expose his role in today's controversy, rather that's preposterous, can prove their accuse. That damns the entire AFP. It shows the system in which corruption has become so ingrained, so institutionalized, so automatic in that institution the generals do not need to make any judgment, or make overtures, to get their "fair." It goes in there as a matter of course.

Reyes of course did take specific instructions about how to get his "fair." If Rabusa is to be believed. Just he got to be found out only because Carlos Garcia, the comptroller Rabusa served under, got found out before him, running a spark into a conflagration. As Rabusa himself testified, the system of diverting huge sums into the pockets of the generals, plunderlady their chief of staff, was already there when they took over. They merely inherited it, the institutional wreckage of kickbacks galore.

They inherited it but pushed it up afew more inches. Which makes Senator Trillanes's assertion to wait for a new job assurance with TSI or seek employment elsewhere.

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The best investments

KHARTA—On the eastern edge of Kolkata, India's fifth- a 25-year-old member of four, went to about the one of running her son sick boys. Her husband earns 80-90 rupees ($1.80) a day. Her family's basic diet is rice with vegetables. Her son that children need to thrive. Rabi's two sons, aged 3 and 1, are weak and lose fat, lack appetite and are a mix. "If I have to spend 200-300 rupees on medicine," she says, "what will I eat and feed my children with?"

Rabi's story is heartbreaking—and heartbreakingly common—in the developing world: three billion people survive on less than $2 a day, 1 in 6 consumption like vitamin A and Zinc, and are at increased risk of illness from malnutrition, including the diarrheal disease, which kills nearly two million children annually.

Micronutrient deficiency is known as "hidden hunger." This is a fitting description, because it is one of the global challenges that we least acknowledge or take action on in the developed world. It draws scant media attention or celebrity firepower, which are often critical to attracting charitable donations to a cause.

But this is the biggest point here: billions of dollars are given and spent on aid and development by individuals and companies each year. Despite this generosity, we simply do not allocate enough resources to solve one of the world's biggest problems. In a recent thought experiment, Bjorn Lomborg, a Danish statistician, set out to find the most effective investments for the world's $50 billion annual budget for development assistance. He ranked 30 investments aimed at reducing malnutrition, broadening educational opportunities, slowing global warming, curbing air pollution, reducing conflict, fighting diseases, improving access to water and sanitation, lowering trade and immigration barriers, thwarting terror

WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg

risk and promoting gender equality.

Despite the considerations of each sponsor's costs and benefits, and sowing aside matters like media attention, the experts identified the best investments—those for which relatively tiny amounts of money could generate significant returns in terms of health, prosperity and consequently all strategies. These included universal immunization coverage, initiatives to reduce school dropout rates, community-based nutrition programs and micronutrient supplementation.

The last initiative, which would do so much to help Rabi Bibi's family in Kolkata, is outwardly fairly cheap. Providing Vitamin A for a year costs as little as $1.20 per child, while providing Zinc costs as little as $1.60.

By highlighting the areas in which even small investments can accomplish a great deal, the project influenced philanthropic organizations and governments. This month, the Copenhagen Consensus Center released the results of Doing (www.copenhagenconsensus.com) so that those of us seeking a government treasury or charitable foundation in our disposal can also consider how to use the money wisely.

Should we count those organizations that focus on saving lives today immediately making the world a better place (and to spend the money longer), or fund education to benefit future generations?

Often we hear catchphrases like "without an education there is no future" or "without water our seniors survive," as if it is obvious that we should direct first on one or the other. But many people in wealthy countries have easy access to clean drinking water. The difficult task that the expert panel undertook was to look at the facts and find the additional dividend, even in this case $10, could achieve with respect to many good causes.

The contrast between saving lives today and aiming at tomorrow becomes clear when efforts to tackle global warming are included in the comparison. Here would $10 best be spent? Should we focus long-term efforts, or shortcut to a cleaner generating instruction equipment?

By putting all benefits in individuals, communities and countries in monetary terms, we can compare the two options. Expert researchers for the Copenhagen Consensus found that action efforts are a relatively inefficient way of waiting to global warming and reducing its effects—$10 would avoid about $3 of damage from climate change. By contrast, $10 spent on vitamin A supplementation could create the $150 of benefits in health and long-term prosperity.

One reason we can draw is that, while global warming may exacerbate problems like malnutrition, current efforts to address the latter are still generally far less extensive than its climate-based threats. Overall, we can typically best help through direct interventions, including micronutrient supplements, fortification, biofortification and deworming.

There are millions of stories like Onin Bibi's and billions of other stories that demand our attention. By embracing simple lessons from economics, all of us—individuals, governments and philanthropists—can ensure that our generosity yields the greatest benefit possible. *Project Syndicate*

Bjorn Lomborg is the author of "The Skeptical Environmentalist" and, most recently, "Cool It," head of the Copenhagen Consensus Center and adjunct professor at Copenhagen Business School.

Cafeteria

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

If 11 ship as Alamo 21 years ago, in 1989, the government announced a P1.2 billion birth control program. When hordo of dissent greeted it, proponents subtly retreated. It was then renamed "Maternal and Child Survival Program," when giving it a popular façade, the target indicators remained the same: public acceptance of birth control technology.

Two decades later, the catchword is "reproductive health." When that line became anathema to some social centers, a switch to the safer neutral, "family planning," was made. The program itself is funds. And still unchanged since the last 21 years, the deception has remained behind the euphemism: it is still a birth limitation program.

Within that span, however, the media organs for birth control has become really a hostage. Today, it has acquired a new euphemism: "reproductive rights," utilized in both print and broadcast media as medieval manners and society's sex taboos. In 1990, among 23 US government-funded projects in the Philippines was one for "population-communications activities" to the tune of $600,000. The voice for Decision Makers and the Media" to the tune of $13,345. It should not be a mistake where are anyone. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

Reinforcing for an absolute "population growth crisis" was a campaign that was used by Planned Parenthood in America by its organizer Margaret Sanger and the International Planned Parenthood in several wide support for her "birth limitation" programs that had racist objectives. Sanger coined the term "birth control" in 1921. A few years later, she would coin the term "unwanted pregnancies." She had wanted to reduce America's "inferior stock" (mainly African Americans) in production so called "race of the unfit" (Blinde, Mee-ryld: Time Warner). Planned Parenthood was born in 1921 from Sanger's philosophy among her circle of disciples which included Hitler, eugenicists, "sex husbands, society lovers and assorted paid sycophants and gigolos," as even her own sons had

Eulogy for the king

COMMENTARY

Clemente L. Montellana

(Feb 15 is not a commentary on Martin Bonjour. It is perhaps an anniversary we feel place of time much between the roots, as the painters who assigned to their work and company said. The time to think is still.

The universal and perpetual rule that fell last Tuesday was something that was a bit scary. It turned heart and society from the dead early of the night until the late. Decided the dropping of the to the dead and the cause of the dropping for about 15 hours non-stop. While it passed, it would have been normal to recall the endless and heightening caused by "Shirley" the other year, to the real-working threats in my Eastern Samar hometown of Guiuan, and to the fear of the seventh part of Layte, where the hard rain wreaked havoc, all I could think of was Manny Pacquiao.

The long, hard and sustained rain was a metaphor of sorts for the sustained and lofty experience that the Pacman enjoyed. Forgive me for saying this in the past tense; whether you accept it or not my unworthy brain is shouting that way. I mean, let's face it: I am, pray and love the Pacman. I am ready to defend his honor to the death, although many who should condemn several after the exercise of the Pacman lived and died to make it last peaceful. But the rain reminded me that it's downhill henceforth for the king. But since we are only here for a while, it's better to enjoy the ride while it lasts, and Manny Pacquiao—for that matter—is so patently clear. There is no frontier to be crossed after Antonio Margarito. Floyd Mayweather Jr. is known enough to let his fist alone; he doesn't need a fight with Manny, not because he has a lot of bucks inside his pockets (he's "Money" Mayweather for cash himself), but simply because he is scared.

Choosing Shane "Sugar" Mosley as the next

slaughter job is one more; it is foolish. Bob Arum had his way. Accepting it as a reality is not accepting it as fully as the Pacman is a superior and doing of signed deals and prior agreements onto the business savvy Arum could put off the of issues they Top Rank and Miller Entries, have to settle the gun. As long as it can provide the spark and the fuel, Arum will be the engine that the Pacman gets will continue to pile up and the gate as Arum's face would tell for that reaching kind, from one to one.

Who else were Manny, those who really love him, could not have done better but accept the fact it's a done deal. The fight with Mosley is also in conformity with Arum's law or even Newton's: "What goes up must come down." But it's indeed still a heavy-lifting proof that Boxing, the say only or pin upon, is his an enterprise, a business under taking.

As Arum rules really stands, deeply amid fans of Manny, I could not help but be sad. Because I only believe that after the Margarito fight, it was supposed to be curtain time. A good ride to hang the gloves and enjoy the burgeoning possibility of honor and boots injuries that Manny's pound for pound flesh sustained. Imagine the three pound-per-square-inch impact of those heavy hands from Torrevamaya to Margarito; an ordinary mortal was would have succumbed to the blows and fallen to the ground.

I was hoping since he would find something that would be a major reason to finally stop. Because I am not a Manny known that success, and of the functions of my intellect. The intellect is supposed to knowing the then. This is the genius of Einstein of intellect. Having said that, what is known as conscience is due function of the intellect in working the moral truth of a specific act.

To get or to lack reasoning the truth can result in deliberately knowing the moral truth about a specific act. Conscience then can certainly commit mistakes. It may deem something wrong to right and misleading right to wrong.

Given these can we how surpass the freedom of people in seeking the moral truth? In the case of the reproductive health issue, the painful question is, *are we giving them an informed choice?* The answer is not difficult. We help them maximize their chance to err in making a moral judgment by withholding from the moral truth.

Thus we have a government that wants means to raise sex. Its office lists the choices there are in the cafeteria menu with no wife, or with another woman. One wants to make money. The choices are hard work or stealing. Another wants to become president. The choices are honest election or vote buying. No mother is in a conflict situation. The menu says elevation or violence.

In all those cases, your advice is "it is up to your conscience." Do you think you are duly respecting their conscience? Do you say you are only helping them exercise their freedom by not helping them? Don't you think they can also be capable of choosing the easy way of human passion even if this is not moral? Ask anyone, instead, doctors or lawyers, about their patients' or clients' good conscience by helping them in their search for the moral truth?

Anyone do not tell us how informed a choice was made. The cafeteria, with all its menus, does not necessarily make people choose a brave, noble or even rationally made people choose a brave, noble or even rational one. The choices are honor elections

Citizens' power to fight criminals is everywhere

ACCORDING TO some people, the crapulous has explosion last Jan. 22 can be attributed to either ignorance or to a timid and shy democratic tactic to take the bull by the horns: mention all an ongoing high-level plunder and corruption case. Regardless of the motive, people should not expect government agencies to do anything discriminating power and counter-value plays. Only everywhere every minute. The duty falls on the citizenry: commendably report any suspicious behavior or situation through the overhauled device almost everyone carries around—the cell phone.

Every person should store into his or her cell phone's memory the emergency number 117, then train himself or herself to automatically reach for the ubiquitous cell phone, after first noting the unique features of suspicious persons or the place member of the vehicle(s) they are using, then reporting the observations to any of the **hidden disembowels** of a consistent, the suspicious influx of easy cars a resident or merchant with a much fewer number being driven you know), the commission of any crime being witnessed by a duly relatively innocuous dark of newspaper sellings or an unreal earnings, gang or hooligan incident, etc.

We should all consider it our duty to help alert the law-enforcing authorities to immediately track and arrest perpetrators of any type of crime, and we can easily do so if only we do not overlook the useful device right in our pockets, or purses. TV and print media can assist in this effort by frequently reminding their audience and readers to become aware of the power of cell phone communication—which is within easy reach of almost every citizen—to help forestall crime.

—BENJAMIN SEVILLA, benjamin191@yahoo.com

LETTERS

'Loud accusations' in criminal cases do not constitute proof of guilt

I WRITE as a counsel of Gen. Douglas Gascon of Davao del Sur, a subject of Inquirer's Jan. 22 editorial, As a public official, he is entitled to the presumption of innocence in a democratically run country like ours. Like the lawyers and me, he cannot (nor were killed Senate Defendants) to be brought before the bar of justice and punished accordingly.

The editorial, however, implies that since the "members [had] clearly and unflinchingly" identified the alleged mastermind in Governor Cagas and Mansion Senator Ranch Fernandez, then she was must be charged in court without further delay.

May I say that prosecutors need more than just the ego as of the principal suspect of the offense—the self-confessed assistant in this case—to plead death to file the case in court. They need at least positive facts evidence that will stand in court and assure them of a fair chance of convicting the accused beyond reasonable doubt, after observing the latter his or her constitutional right to a proper preliminary investigation.

For now if it is true due in a criminal charge simply still it not a strong defense, the mere allegations of the principal suspect, without independent corroborating and credible evidence, simply suffice to justify prosecuting, much less convicting, people in court. To do so would be amusement to prosecutors.

There is no question that "the necessities to trust" against the governor and Mayor Fernandez especially when a notoriously suspected dolts like the inquirer editorialist it. But in law, the touchstone of accusation is criminal cases, evidence and impossible proof beyond reasonable doubt, not the evidence have allegations, does not amount to "clear" evidence of guilt.

In fact, the Inquirer's Jan. 23 Tally of the Town cited 55 statistical showing that "six witnessed 75 persons of wrongful convictions overturned by DNA evidence are a result of bad eyewitness identification."

The aviation' authors also assert that in the ill-fated country of ours, police investigators sometimes resort to—and get away with—and I might add convict or torture...to name "confessions" from suspects or even innocent persons under police detention.

Hence, it is no surprise that allegations from principal suspects in criminal cases are sometimes disowned or discarded in the preliminary investigation phase or in the trial of such cases for having been coerced, cajoled or bought for a measly P50,000 or P100,000 by a desperate wanting to destroy the objects of their hatred for personal, partisan or other evil motives.

Among other things, then, Governor Cagas is entitled to the presumption that the prosecutors' reason he is being linked to the case, and indeed as it were to Calvary for crucifixion, is the evil desire harbored by his wealthy partisan political opponents to rid forever the life of his political dominance in Davao del Sur.

Finally, there are rumors murmurs of members of the Ayuso ng Pilipinong Manlalaban and the Tribunlo Asosiasyon of Davao del Sur that another group had a number by the name of Sayaw' Bukidnon.

—ATTY. ROLINO PHENTIL JR., counsel for Gov. Douglas Cagas

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BDO

Conrad: demolition job

CONRADO DE Quiros writes (1/29/2011, "Here's the Kill") that during the last presidential elections, it was the huge team of economists who brought President P-Noy to power, not the LP During the campaign, we had an backseat coalition of the brand, including GPs, some economists, but De Quiros recognized not even half the testimony and always omits mention of volunteers affiliated with parties that are not to his liking.

He also unfairly accuses the LP on the one hand, of "demagoguing" in reaching the People Power, and yet regards our efforts to reach out to the parties as "gambling them] up" on the other. The LP has long been one of the few parties to require nominees and hold forums on political reform, new parties and people power; and we have done much to recognize our active ties to real political party.

To De Quiros, there are completely unpresentable to the practice of propaganda or demolition writing—it seems to us were right. He would rather see us as a political party that has upheld a particular type of politics...the politics of information or the politics of the Trojan Horse—and his fulcrum to the Liberals right where he/anyday as his buddies/cronies.

In the interest, he mentions that the Communist Party of the Philippines initially "endorsed," but the CPP has been legal since 1992, when the Anti-Subversion Law was repealed. So it isn't surprising, is De Quiros' zeal to make partisan issues, then accusatory breathes that there was an endorsement which later proclaim people on the Liberal Party.

His criticisms against the LP are, if anything, unfounded. It is of the mistaken notion that our party has a singular, authoritarian hand who dictates upon its actions. This is not true. The party has a collective leadership, an executive chair simply "taking the car from the leader" that has become the custom among political parties.

I would like to inquire that the letter be published in full as it presents of the points we wish to make in response to De Quiros' account. Thank you for your kind consideration.

—ATTY. EDWIN CHUA ACCUSADO-ARAGA, secretary general, Liberal Party, TAPE Centre, 6 Mapagsangguni Street, Sikatuna Center, Diliman, Quezon City

GSIS clarifies benefits

WE THANK Godofredo Reyes for the kind words and support he expressed in his letter "Thanks to GSIS" (Inquirer, 1/26/2011, page A16). However, we wish to clarify certain points in Reyes's letter first, the release of cash gifts before the end of the year as "Christmas bonus" to qualified old-age retirement and disability pensioners is an annual exercise of the GSIS. This should clarify his statement that after many years, the GSIS has finally given its pensioners a cash gift.

Second, we did not narrow the cash gifts for membership pensioners as part of our mass pronouncement touching the pension fund's value on outstanding benefits. To the best of our light on this matter, what has been released by the Board is the provision on income dispositions for surviving spouses of members and pensioners. As approved by the Board, surviving spouses of members and pensioners will now receive their monthly pension benefits even if they are gainfully employed and receiving other sources of income.

This Board measure is an offshoot of our management to review all policies and programs of the GSIS to make them more responsive to our members and pensioners whose welfare is our utmost priority as a social security institution.

—ROBERT C. VERGARA, president and general manager, Government Service Insurance System

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Rabusa to spill beans on 3 ex-AFP bosses

from page 1

on the different units of the military.

Rabusa said Reyes received a regular P5 million payoff in his 20 months in office, and was gifted with some P16 million as send-off money on his retirement in 2001, a charge denied by Reyes.

The next AFP chiefs of staff, Villanueva and Cimatu, reportedly received P3 million as a "starting fund," he said.

Rabusa admitted that he also shared in the unused pot of P400 million, known as the provisions for command allowance expenses (PCDA) and distributed by the comptroller at the discretion of the AFP chief of staff.

He said he and his then boss, comptroller Garcia, "converted" almost P3 billion between 2000 and 2001.

From 2000 to 2002

Rabusa said his officers would cover the period when he served as budget officer from 2000 to 2002 under Reyes, Villanueva and Cimatu, and under comptrollers Garcia, Lipat and Garcia.

"I can't talk beyond that or before that. Otherwise, we will not be perceived as credible," he said.

Rabusa declined to go into specifics so as not to preempt the testimony of his officers which he said would be completed soon.

Asked if he would appear as a witness in the investigation by the justice department, he said, "Do I have a choice? Why would I make the accusation if I will not appear in the trial?"

The government may file charges against Reyes based on Rabusa's testimony, Ubalde, according to Senators Panfilo Lacson and Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

They said your AFP chiefs of staff should be subjected to a lifestyle check and be summoned to the blue ribbon inquiry.

Rabusa credible

The senators agreed that Rabusa's testimony was credible enough to be the basis for filing charges against Reyes in a court and that he could turn state witness.

"I have been said his testimony is for corroboration. Otherwise, we cannot consider Rabusa under his damning testimony, said in an interview. "You can't convict a conviction without his testimony."

Sen. Francis Escudero also found Rabusa more credible than Reyes. "He was brutally honest compared to Reyes," he said.

Escudero said Reyes "is not that old or unable to forget," referring to the latter's claim that he did not remember receiving P16 million in send-off money when he retired.

Escudero, chair of the Senate defense and security committee, said in Davao City that his committee would summon other former AFP chiefs of staff because Rabusa had claimed that the practice of "padaan" was a tradition in the military.

He said the practice, if true, was lamentable, adding that soldiers were dying on the field and enduring difficult living conditions while their officers were living luxuriously.

Plunder, bribery

Santiago urged the President to file charges against Reyes based on Rabusa's testimony. Ecleo said the government was taking swift action on the report.

"He's a dead man walking," she said on the radio.

Santiago added that Reyes should be charged with plunder, malversation of public funds and bribery. "There's no eyewitness. Reyes can be convicted on the basis of a testimony of one eyewitness alone," she said.

Because Rabusa was an eyewitness, his testimony who accepts the acts documented evidence, and would not require corroboration and hearings, a former trial judge.

Ibidan, a former junior secretary said proof of Rabusa's truthfulness was his tale of converting P16 million into dollars before he said (just delivered this to Reyes, then the AFP chief of staff.

"That's an indication that he was telling the truth. You can't invent that kind of story. If you noticed, Reyes and Lipat did not deny his statements. They said that they don't remember," he said.

To prove the case is beyond reasonable doubt, Ubalde said Rabusa's testimony should be corroborated by documentary evidence, such as checks that were signed in connection with withdrawals from the PCDA.

State witness

Ibidan and Santiago said that the government could use Rabusa as a state witness against Reyes and, in exchange, drop the charges against him.

"His testimony is necessary for prosecution. Secondly, he may appear to be the most guilty," Ubalde said.

He said dropping the charges against Rabusa would be a condition for his entering a witness, but it was up to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to decide.

Rabusa is facing a perjury case for allegedly misdeclaring his wealth in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth. He is said to have amassed some P60 million during his stint as Garcia's budget officer.

While the justice and national defense departments have yet to open investigations of his report, Santiago pushed for a lifestyle check on past AFP chiefs of staff, beginning with former President Fidel V. Ramos who served as AFP chief of staff under then President Corazon C. Aquino.

Now that a former key budget officer has opened the Pandora's box, the AFP said it was willing to disclose past malpractices on the use of its funds.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo David Jr., who was appointed last July 2 shortly after Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said today that the military will not allow any of its officers to be dragged into the controversy.

"We will not allow [ourselves] to be dragged into the controversy," he said. In fact, the chief of staff has already advised everyone to prepare, to assist and provide information," the military spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr., said on Sunday. Reference: Jaime Dona, Jr. Philippine Navy Secretary and Branch Jay Francis, Inquirer Headlines

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4	Ferdinand Dominguez		9	Manuel Ubaldo
5	Myrna Carmona		10	Eduardo Castro

Rank	Visayas		Rank	
1	Hazael Chua		6	Wenilyn Lozano
2	Rizalito Duran		7	Amelia Yuson
3	Magdalena Lumocso		8	Evelyn Sy
4	Ferdinand Ray		9	Robert Chan
5	Esther Lobo		10	Jose Ramirez

Rank	Mindanao		Rank	
1	Henry Gonzalez		6	Jaime Sosmeña
2	Julius Ah		7	Loreta Escobar
3	Philip Jose Pulumna		8	Carol Kuna
4	Edna Medrano		9	Ferdinand Valle
5	Estrella Mallorca		10	Rodrigo Cabral

People power in Arab world puzzles P-Noy

From page A1

The interior ministry reported at least six people were killed and 900 injured in clashes, while protesters torched six police stations and the main street of Alexandria and Suez in the most violent challenge to Mubarak's rule and a string of authoritarian rulers in the Arab states of North Africa for nearly three decades.

Mubarak, 82, came under siege from latest protests on the back of the country's two weeks ago of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of nearby Tunisia, who fled with his family with a huge loot to Saudi Arabia, in the first people power revolution in the Arab world where regimes long viewed as invulnerable were being challenged.

The Tunisian uprising, dubbed the "Jasmine Revolution," ended Ben Ali's 23-year dictatorship and sent shockwaves of the domino effect in the Arab states of the Middle East.

Egypt is the most populous Arab nation, and the collapse of the Mubarak regime is feared to have a domino-effect similar to what happened in Tunisia. Begun in 1969, when the fall of the Berlin Wall triggered other people power movements in the Arabian bloc.

Unlike in the Philippines, the people power movement in the Arab nations are not at all emulating the Edsa Revolution of Edsa I. They are carving a path of violence—a revolt not driven by Islamic forces but mainly by secular groups in a region where the unreported wisdom prevails that authoritarian regimes keep a tight lid on popular democratic movements from succeeding.

Mr. Aquino sits on the throne of mandate built on the upstage of Edsa I. The revolutions seething in Egypt and Tunisia are influenced by a culture of political excesses and regime repression.

Mr. Aquino, therefore, cannot be complacent that the Edsa Revolution vehicle on which he rode to power can buy him immunity from creation of his legacy, many that has come increasingly under attack over alleged misdeeds, corruption, blunders (especially during the bungled hostage rescue swoop in August last year), his insensitive lifestyle, and meager accomplishments during his first hundred days in office.

Lost goodwill

Most recently, Mr. Aquino has lost a certain amount of public goodwill after it was reported that he bought a top of the line Porsche sports car, driven like a car-racing demon, and is a gun lover, traveling to target practice shooting with his entire

All these anxieties have a reputation that he is a fun-loving leader who does not take his heavy responsibilities as head of state seriously and have taken a toll on his political capital built on the perception he has fostered that he is the heir to Filipino-style people power.

Edsa I, whose 25th anniversary is due to be celebrated next month, has never let power be used by the Aquino dynasty as a birthright to rule, even though its heirs cannot deliver results to spur economic growth, to alleviate poverty, and promote agrarian reform (i.e., the Hacienda Luisita redistribution).

The Edsa I political capital can be squandered quickly by Mr. Aquino's compromises performance over the past 100 days. It cannot be replenished quickly by an endless production of slogans, such as "Kung Walang Corrupt, Walang Gutom."

No appeal to Arabs

The Arab world is not swayed/turned by our Edsa I model and is carving its own style that includes blood shedding as a supreme sacrifice for political change and removal from power of ruling dictators.

In a review of the turbulent developments in the Arab world, BBC reports that Egypt has many similarities with Tunisia—tough economic conditions, official corruption and little opportunity for its citizens to express dissatisfaction with the political system.

In January, several cases of self-immolation were reported in Egypt...apparent attempts to mimic actions of the young Tunisian, Mohamed Bouazizi, who set himself on fire in mid-December and died on Jan. 4, reigniting the unrest which ultimately overthrew President Ben Ali.

Tunisia's example

The Tunisian example has spread widely in the region.

In Amman, Reuters reports that Jordanian activists rallied outside government offices on Saturday as they mapped out their campaign to force Prime Minister Samir Rifai to step down.

Inspired by the unrest in Tunisia and elsewhere in the region, a group of Jordanian activists gathered outside the the prime minister's office shouting, "Our government is a bunch of thieves," and holding banners reading "We're poverty hungry."

According to BBC, on Jan. 25, ordinary Egyptians spilled over to numbers into the streets of Cairo, issued demands for Mubarak to resign, and called for an end to growing unemployment and police abuses.

In Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished nation, where nearly half of the population lives on less than $1 a day, there have been several days of protests.

Yemeni anti-opposition groups have taken to the streets of the capital, Sanaa, demanding the resignation of of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. As in Tunisia, the trigger appeared to be economic, in particular sharp increases in the prices of food.

What follows next?

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi reacted sharply to the unrest of Tunisia's Ali. "There is none better than Ben to govern Tunisia," Gaddafi said. "Tunisia now lives in fear."

The reaction appeared to reflect Gaddafi's nervousness about a possible domino effect. After 41 years in power, he is the longest serving ruler in the Middle East and also one of the most autocratic.

The Egyptian military holds the key to the outcome of the challenge to Mubarak. Although the military has moved in to calm the streets after the feared Egyptian police have fled.

The military has refrained from opening fire on the demonstrators, but this has also raised fears that it would take power if Mubarak were removed.

This a conundrum of revolutions. What follows next? Filipinos-style people power offers no answers.

Egyptian president, protesters in standoff

From page A1

In least one 500-dollar shopping mall in Cairo was on fire after being looted the previous day.

The Arab world's most populous nation appeared to be steadily moving closer to a point at which it either dissolves into widespread chaos or the military expands its presence and control of the streets.

A broader and tougher military role could be welcomed by increasingly fearful Egyptians that would see a return of appearing to place the Army on the side of the regime and antagonizing protesters.

"This is the Arab world's Berlin moment," said Fouad Ostgoet of the London School of Economics, referring to the events to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. "The authoritarian wall has fallen, and that's a question of whether Mubarak survives."

Saturday saw the worst bloodshed so far of the five-day uprising. Police then dead 17 people in Bani Suef, south of Cairo. Serious estimates put the overall death toll in the five days of unrest at more than 300.

The demonstrations from all segments of Egyptian society have taken to the streets for nearly a week calling for President Hosni Mubarak to step down.

Mubarak named his intelligence chief Omar Suleiman to a new role as vice president on Saturday, but many protesters said they wanted the complete removal of an administration they blame for pervasive unemployment, widespread corruption and police brutality.

Tougher action

The Army appeared to be taking tougher action on some streets by early Sunday afternoon.

On Tahrir Square in the heart of Cairo, two soldiers wearing gasmasks in a tank were working with several young men in civilian clothes to check IDs and bags of hundreds of arriving protesters.

There found a brother Emily Hidden in a plastic bag carried by a man in his 30s as he attempted to enter the square. The soldiers searched the man in the ground, but him and put him inside their tank.

Some 15,000 protesters chanted oil slogans against Mubarak in the square, the main gathering point for protesters since antigovernment demonstrations began on Tuesday, emboldened by Tunisians' success in driving out their president earlier in the month.

Army helicopters were flying low over Cairo and some neighborhoods remained without any troops two days after Mubarak called the army out on the streets. But many Cairo neighborhoods and other parts of the country remain unmanned by looting or more crime.

U.S. President Barack Obama met with security aides on his military adviser and issued a plea for government restraint in Egypt, where Washington has long feared increasing influence by Muslim militants.

Battles in 4 prisons

Egyptian security officials said that overnight armed men fired at guards in gun battles that lasted hours at the four prisons, including one northwest of Cairo that held hundreds of militants. The prisoners escaped after setting fires and clashing with guards.

The Egyptian security officials said several inmates were killed and wounded, but gave no specific figures. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share the information with the media.

Looting and arson continued until dawn as the police totally disappeared from the streets of the capital and several major Egyptian cities. There was no explanation for why the police vanished.

The vacuum left by their nothing many has prompted residents to form neighborhood protection groups, armed with firearms, sticks and clubs. The citizens set up self-styled checkpoints and built makeshift steel barricades and metal traffic barriers to block off side streets.

Groups of youths also directed traffic in parts of Cairo, chasing away the gangs of criminals smashing passing cars. Hundreds of people lined up outside gasoline stations to buy fuel. Stores appeared to be running short of most items, especially bottled water. At one store, water was selling for three times the normal rate.

Al Jazeera banned

State Egyptian television and authorities have decided to close down the Cairo offices of the Qatar-based Al Jazeera television and suspend the accreditation of its reporters.

The Egyptian TV did not give a reason for the move, but Egyptian authorities have often in the past charged that the station's coverage of events in Egypt was unsubstantial or biased against Mubarak's regime.

Egyptian officials also interfered with Internet access and mobile phone signals to try and disrupt demonstrators' plans. Twitter messages on Sunday were urging Egyptians to assemble with Tahrir Square to remove their anti-Mubarak message.

Sunday is normally a working day in Egypt but banks and financial markets were ordered shut by the central bank. The bourse said it would stay closed on Monday.

The unprecedented turmoil has sent shock waves through the Middle East, where other authoritarian rulers may face similar challenges, and scratched Israeli leaders around the globe.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Jerusalem must exercise responsibility and restraint in the face of the unrest and urged that stability and peaceful ties would last with Egypt, the first Arab nation to make peace with Israel.

Thieves damage museums

In Cairo, the biggest immediate fear was of looting as police order collapsed. Mobs stormed banks, supermarkets, jewelry shops and government offices. Some suggested the chaos could herald a security force crackdown.

Thieves at the Egyptian Museum damaged two mummies from the time of the pharaohs.

In several towns, soldiers from Mubarak's army stood by tanks covered in anti-Mubarak graffiti: "Down with Mubarak" and "Down with the dictator." Next to with the traitor Pharaoh out of Egypt."

Asked how they could let protesters write anti-Mubarak slogans on their vehicles, one soldier said: "These are tanks of the people, it's the tanks of the people."

Protests in Sudan

In Khartoum, Sudanese police beat and arrested students and opposition activists on Sunday throughout the city demanding the government resign, inspired by a popular uprising in neighboring Egypt.

Hundreds of armed riot police fired tear gas on students and opposition activists in central Khartoum and in at least two other cities in the capital, which were surrounded by police reinforcements, witnesses said. Students hurled stones at police cars.

Sudan has a close affinity with Egypt as the two nations were united under British colonial rule. The unprecedented scenes there inspired calls for similar action in Sudan, where protests without permission, which is rarely given, are illegal.

Before Tunisia's popular revolt, Sudan was the last Arab country to overthrow a leader with popular pressure, ousting Jaafar Nimeiri in 1985. Reports from AP and Reuters

Better Trained.

The University Physicians Medical Center (UPMC), a private out-patient diagnostic facility, is located within the newly-renovated UPM-PGH Faculty Medical Arts Building (FMAB). Also found within the FMAB are specialty clinics of doctors affiliated with UP Manila, the country's Health Sciences Center, and the Philippine General Hospital (PGH). Patients are always assured of the best available medical and surgical care in the hands of expert and better-trained doctors.

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SIEMENS

Devotees parade Sto. Niño images

From page A1

ston del Santísimo Nombre del Niño Jesus—which illustrate the lives of social classes.

Children in Sinulog and Ati-Atihan costumes danced to the pounding of drums, while members of a political family in Quezon City helped push their carriage bearing two images of the Sto. Niño.

Well-heeled devotees were also spotted, making their touches on their carriages before the procession rolled away.

"This event is for everybody who believes in the Sto. Niño," said Tony Galang, a member of the Compgenerian, a religious group of lay devotees of the Holy Child Jesus founded by Catholic designer Inis Morales in 1979.

Be a child first

Galang said Sunday's parade, which began at Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City and ended at Quirino Grandstand in Manila, was the culmination of the Compgenerian's two-week annual Fiesta del Sto. Niño.

He said the event was one way of reminding Filipino devotees to "be child-like before you enter the kingdom of heaven."

"We have to be child-like in anything that we ask of the Father can be granted," Galang said in an interview.

Rosario Fernandez, who joined the procession parade in gratitude for prayers answered and for protection received from the Sto. Niño.

Mirror of their lives

Some of the floats mirrored the lives of their owners—for instance, the carriage of maritime Capt. Carlos Arnaiz, president of a shipping company.

Arnaiz's carriage was adorned up like a cargo vessel. Its Sto. Niño, dressed in a captain's outfit, stood on the ship's bridge. Below it were smaller Sto. Niño icons, wearing sailor's uniforms. Some were holding coral-lounge accessories.

"These are our real prayer lolls which members of our family working as seafarers have sent home," said Gloria Yeung, who has been executing her brother-in-law's carriage for more than 15 years.

Yeung said joining the procession was her way of thanking the Child Jesus for the blessings that had come her family's way.

"My two children have finished schooling and my son, who is a seaman, has also found a job and recently boarded today," Yeung said.

Jesus as a knight

Ati-Atihan, a 40-year-old social events designer, decorated his cars carriages based on his conception of the Child Jesus—as a fisherman and then as the symbol of the Eucharist.

He started the first image, made of ceramic and carrying a fisherman's catch, "Sto. Niño de Pescador." It was propped on a carrosa embellished with glass lanterns and capiz shells.

The other icon he called "Sto. Niño de Eucharista." It carried a chalice and adorned with clusters of grapes. "Grapes symbolize wine, which also stands for Christ's blood in the Eucharist," Atihan said.

A grocery store owner and soft drinks dealer decorated her carriage with real, fish-shaped loaves of bread, while a (fancy) pedal scooter had his image ride a horse-drawn carriage.

Another image of the Sto. Niño was depicted as a knight on white horse, carrying a gilded shield and a sword.

The Filipinos' deep devotion to the Sto. Niño can be traced back to the time Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan landed in Cebu in 1521 and presented its image as a gift to King Humabon and Queen Juana.

CHURCH HUMOR
Catholic nuns dance in the Encantado' 1991 hit "Tayang" inside Baguio Cathedral on Saturday night as part of a recruitment campaign.

Nuns dance to get recruits in Baguio City

From page A1

of patients] through the years. But because of this, we might be able to get recalls," Fr. Fes Vargas of the Sitio Milagrosa Convent told the hosters.

Aimed 18 more, aged between 25 and 40 years old who came here 46 recent Catholic congregations, dressed at the altar before more than 100 churchgoers to the tune of "Tayang," a hit among the youth in the 1980s.

The song, released in 1980 by the band Encantadoras, talked about a young man's wish to be with a simple girl.

Joining the nuns were a group of actors who depicted how parents could raise among their children.

"The family is beset with problems. We think that discussion about vocation should start in the family," Vargas said.

New members needed

She said they wanted to reach out to young women on the program would be brought to the city's Catholic parishes and universities.

"We danced to 'Tayang' because the song is very popular among the youth. They will call their attention," Vargas said.

The nuns also danced to "I Will Follow Him," which became a household tune courtesy of the 1963 Whoopi Goldberg movie "Sister Act," to Abba's "I Have a Dream," and "Sau Mo Sion," a composition by Fr. Carlo Magno Marcelo of the San Carlos Seminary here.

Vargas said 40 more performances were scheduled at Catholic churches and universities here until Feb. 7. The nuns will be joined by child performers and dancers as they tour the community.

Sr. Mina Lamsing, chair of the Association of Diocesan Religious (Baguio Region), said local churches needed new staff members and missionaries.

"The city has 19 congregations of religious women, which have 80 members. [Most are] elderly and retired [nuns] ... Nobody retires! Nuns as are persevering and understaffed," Lamsing said.

Another calling

Vargas said through their campaign, the nuns also wanted to clear misconceptions toward their vocation.

"The sisters are not just there to pray in church. We can still be sisters. Through dancing we can show the people that the life of sisters [is also fun]," she said.

She said women could choose to stay single and focus their lives on serving God and their community.

Vargas said many young people only thought about getting married. "But there is also another kind of calling, which is the religious life, giving up a part of themselves for God," she said.

UST marks 5th century with pageantry, prayers

From page A1

tributes to the intellectual, spiritual and cultural contributions of the Philippines and beyond," the Pope said at the climax of UST's quadricentennial celebrations on Friday night at the university grandstand and open ground.

Thousands of students, faculty and alumni from different parts of the world and from across all professions and generations lit their candles at the binding of Rector Magnificus fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P.

He is first signed Thomasians as he like "the line of Archbishop that led everyone to Jesus our Lord" and "to renew their Thomasian vow to spread the light and be the light of the world."

Hundreds of bishops, priests and nuns concelebrated a high Mass with the papal legate, Cardinal Jozef Tomkowski.

Oldest Thomasian is 103 years old

THE CELEBRATION of the University of Santo Tomas' 400th anniversary was also there for 'uno' when UST Rector Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P. unveiled on Thursday evening the Quadricentennial, a 14-meter bronze-and-glass monument made by renowned sculptor Ramon V. Orlina.

The monument depicted when movie actor Pedro Pinedo, who modeled for the male monument, appeared. With him were actress-beauty queen Charlene Gonzales and Olympic daughter Shamiyah, who also modeled for the sculptors.

In a poignant moment of the evening, the show introduced the oldest living Thomasian, Atanacio Mufioz, who is 103 years old. He graduated magna cum laude from the UST College of Education.

Mufioz said he owes a candle as a donor to my time. Look at it now I'm so happy to be part of it," Mufioz said.

Pinedo, who studied at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, said he was happy he had contributed to the anniversary celebrations of his alma mater.

"For me being part of this monument is a milestone. This is something that I will forever treasure in my life," he told GMA News, editor in chief of the Literature, UST's student paper.

'Part of my life'

Gonzales, graduating Philippine Women's University in 1994, said UST "played an integral part in my life."

"What I have learned from UST is still serving each one today," said Gonzales, a psychology graduate of the UST College of Science.

Other Thomasian celebrities and personalities performed at the Quadricentennial concert, down at the UST Open Field. They included Rounds Gerald Inc., John Lapus, Jeffrey "Mr. Pet" Hidalgo, Jackie Hernandez, Albert Martinez, Apple Chua, Jamie Rivera, Janice Gonzalez, BJ Jimenez, Robert Seña and Nina Ferguson.

Erik Santos and Gary Valenciano also performed.

Ageless Canseco

At the stroke of 12, fireworks exploded as UST received its 18th century of service.

In the grand alumni homecoming on Friday night, performers included the ageless Carmen Soriano, who wore a silk gown that showed her successive figure and flawless legs.

The other performers were the UST Symphony Orchestra and the UST Singers, which won the prestigious Lucino Benavidez Grand Prize of the Gawaden international choir competition in Wales last year.

"We have nothing more to boast of, we have nothing more to tell people," Dr. la Rosa said. "Because just to be here for the past 400 years is already something, it's already an achievement."

Carpet of light

Torches borne by Dominican priests and brothers and UST students made their way through the field until the entire open ground became a carpet of light.

The crowd, estimated by police at "at least 100,000," sang the UST hymn, asking God to continue to shower the institution with "unending grace."

Appearing via video after holy communion, the Pope, seated in his study in the Vatican, called the UST Quadricentennial, or 400th anniversary, "a significant event in the life of the Church."

"Although I cannot be with you physically, I am happy I can personally give to you my message on this very special occasion and congratulations on this happy occasion," he said.

Bishops said the ruin papal rides was in recognition of UST as a "pontifical university," enjoying the direct patronage and blessing of the Pope. The title was awarded by Pope Leo XIII in 1902.

Tribute to Dominicans

The Pope paid tribute to the UST founders, the Spanish Dominican friar Miguel de Benavides, the third archbishop of Manila, as well as to the Dominicans' Order that established UST in 1611 and continues to administer it.

"The great commitment of the Dominicans has guided the institution to so many dis-

tinguished men and women of learning and professional growth," he said. Citing remarks by the Pope, he said the goal of a good school, Catholic or not, is the formation of the person.

"The world needs good testimony, but a scientific outlook becomes dangerously narrow if it excludes the religious or ethical dimension of life, just as religion becomes narrow if it rejects the legitimate contribution of science to our understanding of the world," Ziselsbeck said, quoting the Pope's remarks.

In a manifestation of the connection between the papal envoy and the papacy he represents, Ziselsbeck was made to sit on the papal throne that UST had especially made for the two visit by Pope John Paul II in 1995.

It was one of three papal thrones UST made for the visits to the campus by Pope Paul VI in 1970 and by John Paul II in 1981 and 1995. They are preserved in the UST Museum.

Papal letter

Earlier, Ziselsbeck toured UST Clinical Division, the university's biggest private charity hospital, to see for himself the Dominicans' health-care services built for the poor and to console the sick and their families.

"The doctors, nurses and the sick children were so touched by his visit, his healing [presence]. It that cannot touch," Dr. la Rosa said.

Ziselsbeck released the text of a letter from the Pope appointing him the papal legate.

"The passing of four hundred years since the founding of the Pontifical University of Manila, dedicated to Saint Thomas Aquinas, offers a unique occasion for looking at its long-standing and praiseworthy activity as well as for wholehearted help giving thanks to the Divine Teacher for the very many virtues from which this alma mater has copiously produced," the Pope said in the official Tagalog translation of the original letter in Latin.

"Indeed, throughout the centuries, (UST) has contributed, and continues to contribute much to the educational, cultural and religious development of the young people also live in the Philippines," the letter added.

"What is more, it has great importance for propagating and strengthening the Catholic faith in Asia. For it has provided hospitable education to hundreds of priests, [of] bishops, religious and lay faithful, who ... have worked hand and competently to build up the Kingdom of God. It is truly a 'particular setting for an encounter between the Word of God and cultures' (Nathan Orientis, 81)," he added.

The Pope asked UST to continue its task of providing Catholic education.

"He desires that, in the future too, it will take care to give young people a proper values-

centered education which will be brought to the city's century of service.

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centered education which will be brought to the city's century of service.

Ziselsbeck released the text of a letter from the Pope appointing him the papal legate.

"The passing of four hundred years since the founding of the Pontifical University of Manila, dedicated to Saint Thomas Aquinas, offers a unique occasion for looking at its long-standing and praiseworthy activity as well as for wholehearted help giving thanks to the Divine Teacher for the very many virtues from which this alma mater has copiously produced," the Pope said in the official Tagalog translation of the original letter in Latin.

"Indeed, throughout the centuries, (UST) has contributed, and continues to contribute much to the educational, cultural and religious development of the young people also live in the Philippines," the letter added.

"What is more, it has great importance for propagating and strengthening the Catholic faith in Asia. For it has provided hospitable education to hundreds of priests, [of] bishops, religious and lay faithful, who ... have worked hand and competently to build up the Kingdom of God. It is truly a 'particular setting for an encounter between the Word of God and cultures' (Nathan Orientis, 81)," he added.

The Pope asked UST to continue its task of providing Catholic education.

"He desires that, in the future too, it will take care to give young people a proper values-

presidents, especially the leaders of the International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas (Ciusta), International Federation of Catholic Universities, Association of Catholic Universities of the Philippines, and Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines.

The Master of the Order of Preachers, or Dominicans, the Fourth Dominican friar-physician, Fr. Bruno Cadoré, also concelebrated the Mass.

Sea of bishops

The Mass was marked with splendor as Ziselsbeck made his entrance along with Cardinals Ennio Antonelli and Raymundo Amal, hundreds of bishops and the entire membership of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, consisting of bishops of UST alumni, including the president, Bishop Socrates Villegas of Legazpi.

They wore golden mitres and stoles. Gold is the UST color, derived from the sun of St. Thomas Aquinas, to denote wisdom and enlightenment.

The image of the Santisimo Rosario, Our Lady of the Rosary, made its entrance earlier, fully rested in royal robes and with a huge crown on its head. Santisimo Rosario is the patron saint of UST, whose Dominican missionaries promote rosary devotion.

Thomasians in the government who took part in the celebration included Executive Secretary Eduardo Ochoa Jr., Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz and the Council member Jesse Robredo.

Thomasian business leaders present were Virata Quiazon of Mercury Drug and Lucio Lindo Tan, Dr. la Rosa also acknowledged the help of Ayala Group Henry Sy, George Ty and Manuel V. Pangilinan in making the celebration a success.

The rector cited the Dominican sisters, Pink Sisters and Poor Clare nuns, "who prayed for us, who fasted and who sent us unreserved to implore heaven make this celebration a success" and for the members not to miss the parade.

"Guess, you can put down your arms now," he joked.

Dr. la Rosa also gratefully pointed to citizens that the celebration "was a lot over the top."

"What can we do? It took us 400 years to prepare for this," he said, eliciting laughter from the crowd.

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The battle begins at the Camsur's Triathlon competition – a kick-off event to the Iron Man Philippines challenge. Hundreds of athletes around the nation put their training to the test as they compete the Olympic distance of a 1.5 km swim, 40 km bike and 10 km run.

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North Face challenges you to hit the peak of your endurance! The trail run that goes as far as 100km lasting for 2 days. Other side events are the 10 km and 20 km runs, and 100 km relay. Test your limits if you dare to try!

MAY 20-29
Kaogma Festival

The Kaogma Festival makes a jumpstart that is full. Kaogma's opening kicks off with high-energy street dancing exhibitions and an amazing parade of floats. The evening gets even hotter as top celebrities and spectators warm up the stage in this ultimate hot hot hot party!

MAY 21-29
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Bike your way to the TOP! Only the brave can finish the biggest mad bike race and relay from Manila to Camsur! Travel hundreds of kilometers in a span of 8 days to reach your final destination and claim the BIGGEST cash prize of Php 5,000,000!

MAY 27-29
Celebrity Summer Aquafest

See the stars shine brighter at Lago del Rey as celebrities hit out personal sweet spots in Camsur's Celebrity Summer Aquafest. Witness them battle it out to grant water sports, aqua wall climbing, water polo and water volleyball.

JUNE 17-19
Camsur Crankfest

Rubber hits the road at the Camsur Crankfest! 300 BMX and mountain bikers take on concrete and rough road in this extreme and exciting challenge of brute strength, skill, aerial maneuvers and endurance.

AUGUST 14
Cobra Ironman 70.3

The toughest sprint turns woke in the Ironman 70.3 challenge. Over a thousand tri-athletes from all over the world gather in this ultimate challenge of strength and determination. Who will cross the finish line first? The world watches as Camsur brings out the best Ironman.

SEPT. 25
Summit Camsur Marathon

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OCT. 12-16
Dragon Boat Festival

Witness 30 of the best and the finest Dragon Boat teams from all around the world battle it out on the challenging 250m and 500m paddle races. Teams go head-to-head to claim the whopping $15,000 cash prize and for the title - The Best Dragon Boat Team in the World!

OCT. 14-15
Iron Pinoy

The Iron Pinoy is not for the faint-hearted. Watch these professional and amateur men and women bodybuilders showcase their body's best form!

NOV. 18-20
Asian Wakepark Championship

Wakeboarding doesn't get any more extreme than this. The Asian Wakepark Championship brings together the TOP 300 in take on the waters of Camsur. Who will be crowned champion in Asia? Catch the action at the CWC!

DEC. 2-11
Wind or no wind, Kite boarding Jam

Camsur is where they shred—wind or no wind. Top riders and kiteboarding enthusiasts gather not only to take on the waters, but also to experience the best water sports facilities that you can only find in CWS. Riders get ready for a jam-packed time in Camsur, doing jungle and waterfall hiking, island hopping, partying, and lots of riding. Another extreme happening is extremely fun Camsur!

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DFA sets aside ₱25M for Filipinos' evacuation

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday announced that it had set aside a P25-million emergency standby fund for the evacuation of 6,500 Filipinos in Egypt even as the United States already was offering flights to Americans out of the violence-wracked North African country.

The DFA said it was also sending more personnel to assist the 24-man staff of the Philippine Embassy in Cairo in manning the safety of Filipinos who were mostly based in Cairo and Alexandria.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo made himself a travel advisory asking Filipino tourists to defer nonessential and nonurgent trips to Egypt until the security situation there had stabilized.

These measures were announced after an interagency Crisis Management Committee meeting. The DFA said it was convened "in line with instructions of President Aquino."

DFA spokesperson Eduardo Malaya said the department was closely monitoring developments in Egypt. He said the DFA had set up a 24-hour hotline—834-4500—for relatives of Filipinos in Egypt.

Malaya also reported that two Filipinos has been hurt to date as "going protest actions" in Egypt.

In Cairo, the United States yesterday said it was offering evacuation flights to Europe for UK citizens who wish to leave Egypt. It said flights to evacuation points would begin departing Egypt today, describing the evacuation as voluntary.

Turkey planned to dispatch two Turkish Airlines planes to Egypt yesterday to evacuate its citizens, state-run Anatolian news agency quoted embassy officials in Cairo as saying.

European tour operators and airlines have canceled trips to Cairo since protesters took to the streets, dealing a blow to a tourism industry that provides about one in eight jobs in the country.

Tourism operators said businesses were also starting to evacuate their staff and are aware of chaos at the airport, where many people, including Egyptians, were trying to get flights out of the country.

In the residential area of Cairo, two big buses were parked outside the offices of the Italian oil firm ENI to evacuate families, witnesses said. One foreign employee of the firm said his wife and three children would go but he would stay.

"It's not an issue during the day, it's at night when we don't know what will happen," the employee said. With reports from Jerry E. Esplanada and Reuters

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2010 bodes more weather anomalies

From page A1

record monsoon rains destroyed infrastructure, left thousands dead and millions homeless.

In Eastern Europe, Russia suffered its hottest year in 1,000 years of history. At least 15,000 people died from Moscow's heat phenomenon. Wildfires erupted across the country, heavily damaging its wheat crop and forcing Moscow to impose an export ban that ruined global wheat prices.

Here at home, in Baguio City, millions worth of trees and vegetables were ruined by heavy frost of an unseasonably cold weather.

More than a week of abnormally heavy rains left 33 dead last December. About 70,000 lost their homes and landslides in Quezon del Norte, Compostela Valley and Albay.

Our people in these areas remain in turmoil—hundreds of hectares of rice lands, private property and infrastructure destroyed; a total of P403 million in newly planted crops and fertilized acid washed away; and contagious diseases and rat bodies added to their numerous misery.

This march of destruction and distress haven't been's incidental or anecdotal occurrences in most global environment of former climate. This means that 2010 could have marked the early stages of a longer trend and far more volatile weather patterns all over the world.

Scientists are beginning to detect the ill-effects of man's instability as a result of its changing chemical composition, increasing heat and water vapor in the atmosphere, and altered air and ocean currents prompted by the loss of Arctic sea ice.

Greenhouse gas

This instability, of course, is mainly the consequence of global warming brought about by excessive greenhouse gas emissions. Most of these emissions come from burning fossil fuels—coal, oil and natural gas—to produce energy from Automotive and from agricultural activity.

The fuels burnt up when greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, water vapor, nitrous oxide and methane) keep heat and light from the sun in the atmosphere. This increases the global temperature, triggering changes in weather patterns.

The year 2010 tied with 1998 as the hottest year in a 31-year satellite recorded span, according to John Christy, a professor of atmospheric science and director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama.

Significantly, both 1998 and 2010 were years in which El Niño—a Pacific Ocean warming phenomenon—caused global temperatures to reverse months, a La Niña event, the cooling of the Pacific Ocean, has been underway, inducing more temperatures in tropical regions during the final quarter of 2010 and bringing heavy rains.

These weather anomalies are under intense scrutiny. As part of an ongoing project between University of Alabama, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Nasa, Globely and an amateur, Roy Spencer, employ data from advanced microwave sounding units and satellites to get accurate readings for all regions of the planet, including remote deserts, oceans and rainforests.

Satellite instruments now measure atmospheric temperatures from the Earth's surface up to an altitude of 8 kilometers, according to John Topping, president of the Reading-based Climate Risk Management Ltd. Global intergovernment organization that pioneered in addressing climate change issues.

Planet continues to warm

Their collective findings: The planet continues to warm somewhat last month and month. The Arctic Ocean has limited 1.86 degrees Celsius in the past 31 years while Antarctica cooled by about 0.29 degrees Celsius. As a result, the Arctic's contiguous continent, including Canada and the United States, has warmed by about 0.67 degrees Celsius since 1979.

These findings explain why the 2010 coral bleaching had worsened from the time of the super El Niño of 1988, why the Arctic Ocean has declared ice-free last summer for the first time in ecosic and why the polar ice bridge epidemic in Yellowstone, which declared the mythical park's pine forests, had begun its journey to Canada's boreal forest in Illinois.

Projecting the casualties forecast in climate change calls for behavioral change on small and grand scales. For instance, the unusual explosion of fireworks that mimic greenhouse has-crimes.

As a senator from 1988 to 1998, and every year thereafter, I have consistently raised dismay over the general disregard for the adverse environmental, safety and health impact of massive fireworks cannibalo during New Year celebrations.

Based on my estimates for 2011, we recorded a 2,000 percent increase in Metro Manila's carbon and nitrogen dioxide emissions as a result of massive firecracker explosions. With at least 35 percent of the nation's 99 million people living in urban areas, I would not be surprised if there was another 1,000 percent increase in greenhouse gas emissions during the events' New Year.

Deep, early cuts

We can do more by embracing the principle of "deep and early emissions cut" for developed countries. This notion, which we advocated as early as 2008 in Poznan, Poland, was affirmed last year by President Aquino at the UN General Assembly in New York City.

The principle's urgency lies in the importance of keeping the global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. Unfortunately the December 2010 climate conference in Cancun, Mexico, eluded this notion of deep and early cuts. The likely result will be a huge, forgiganon gap of greenhouse gas emissions in the commitments of developed nations, a gap that will surely allow the terrifying prospect of up to 4 degree Celsius global warming by 2050.

There exists sufficient scientific data, expertise and experience for world leaders to forge a climate treaty replacing the Kyoto Protocol. "We only need acquired consensus to stop a global rise toward the tipping point—the irreversible threshold of doom that scientists predict.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's appeal can not be more emphatic: "We must harness the necessary political will to seal the deal on an ambitious new climate agreement ... If we don't, we risk runaway catastrophic damage to people, to the planet."

Our overwhelming hope is that this year's climate meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, will be a crucial turning point to humanity's quest to minimize global warming. For clearly, we must rise above narrow national agendas.

For millenniums, we have exploited nature's bounty and, in the process, despoiled our own habitat. Now, world leaders must summon mankind's great genius and ability to preserve this planet—and our species.

Gilbert V. Teodoro, Jr. is Senator. He is a member of the Climate Change Commission, chaired by President Aquino. A two-term senator, he chaired the Senate committee on environment for 10 years. In 1996, he organized the First Asia Pacific Conference on Climate Change in Manila. He has pioneering environmental leadership, he received the Outstanding Public Policy Award from the Climate Institute, the first non-Western recipient.)

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DID YOU KNOW

Today, Jan. 31, is the 123rd death anniversary of St. John Bosco, whose relic was recently brought to the country. Three schools in Metro Manila were established in his honor—the Don Bosco Technical College in Mandaluyong City, Don Bosco Technical Institute of Makati and Don Bosco School in Makati.

Edilyn Gonzales, Inquirer Research

TRAGEDY ON FEAST DAY

12 killed in deadly Navotas City fire

By Nika Calaja

AN OLD man and his 10-year-old grandson were locked in an embrace when firefighters found them inside their burnt house in Navotas City yesterday morning.

Carlos Manuallor, 92, and Gerald were among the 12 people who were killed when a fire which raged for more than three hours broke out in the middle of a community on R. Liongson Street which was accessible only through an alley which was about a meter wide.

Firefighters, even the veterans, were moved by the sight of burnt bodies buried underneath heaps of collapsed concrete beams and roofing material, SFO4 Jenifito Dupaz, operations chief of the city's Bureau of Fire Protection, told the Inquirer.

After the fire was placed under control or around 5:59 a.m. yesterday, nothing was left in the residential compound except for ashes and gutted homes. A total of 100 houses were burned while 120 families were left homeless.

Aloof the dead were children, the youngest among them a year-old baby.

Supt. Ecbi Medes, Navotas fire marshal, said one of the victims, 63-year-old Bernadeo Orcillana, died of a heart attack when she saw how the incident, which was supposed to celebrate the feast day of its patron saint San Roque yesterday, was contracted by flames.

According to Medes, the fire started at 11:00 p.m. on Saturday in the house of George Migrino, 26, who neighbors described as "mentally ill with a history of drug abuse."

Milagrosa, who was believed to have started the fire, also burned to death. Since his house was next to the narrow alley, residents living near the back of the community were trapped while firemen could not get inside the area.

A viewing house which housed the Flames also worsened the situation and the fire reached the fifth alarm before it was placed under control at 2:30 a.m.

"It was at that time we saw the bodies of the victims," Medes said.

What remained of Jennifer Agustin was found beside the burned remains of her children, 3 year-old Harvey and 2-year-old Jessie James. Their grandfather William Agustin, 58, was also killed in a second-floor house.

The other fatalities were Jerred Halongo, 12; Natalia Aliviga, 11; Angela Halongo, 14; and Eric Tandoy.

"All of them were trapped in the fire because the only pathway in the area was a narrow and dead-end alley," Medes said.

"Only two people at a time can pass through that alley."

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NEW KINGS OF THE ROAD EDGARDO PEREZ

Jr., 18, of Manila, writes "Hulugin" prerecorded push-ads; drivers have no discipline. They do not care about pedestrians. If they hit you or bump you and you scold them, they have the nerve to act arrogantly. Worse, they may even gang up on you."

Leaking pipes in QC

There are leaking water pipes at the intersection of Banawe and Del Monte Avenue in Barangay and on Aranda Avenue after Tandang Sora in Quezon City.

Jose, 47, Quezon City

Apply law equally

Manila City is so strict about smoke bakinang. There are a lot of personnel who apprehend cars, their main targets, and yet there are public utility vehicles in Ayala Washington which are like chimneys.

Lito, 30, Las Piñas City

Street needs clearing

Mayor Lim, please clear Evangelista Street in Baclaran. Stores are restricted to display wares' pushcart and other wares. The space left is barely enough for a vehicle and has to be shared by pedestrians and other automobile operators.

Yolanda Platoz, 50, Muntinlupa City

Lampposts don't work

There are lampposts beside the pedestrian loading bay near the overpass to SM Bicutan but these are not lighted. These should be lighted for the safety of commuters alighting from overseas going to Barangay

Mila, 47, Parañaque City

An accident waiting to happen in Rizal

Attention, Mayor Boyet Fresnes of Binangonan, Rizal. A group of people on L. Carreon Street in Barangay Macamot has been digging up the area for hidden treasures. They have already dug three 15-foot deep holes even without a permit from the municipal government. Barangay officials are helpless in stopping the diggings despite numerous complaints. Accidents, deaths or diseases like dengue are imminent if the holes will not be covered.

Ronny Villadiego, 47, Rizal

Sirens making a comeback

Attention, traffic enforcers. It seems like unauthorized sirens (mang-aling cars making a comeback in Quezon City.

Cleo, 35, Quezon City

Traffic light needed

Why is there no traffic light at the intersection of Alabang-Zapote Road and Concha Cruz/SF Parañaque? Are authorities waiting and hoping that motorists here will have the courtesy to observe the first come, first serve rule? Those coming from Concha Cruz seem to think they always have the right of way.

Jane Pisano, 28, Las Piñas

Smart employee killed, robbed in apartment

By Jayvee T. Gumil

AN EMPLOYEE of Smart Communications Inc. was found dead with 13 stab wounds in his face, friends, yesterday morning in what the police said was a case of robbery and homicide.

The naked and bloodied body of Albert Clarence Bondoc, 31, a credit and collection department supervisor, was found in his third floor studio-type apartment on Nichol Street in San Andres Bukid at around 9 a.m. after neighbors noticed a pool of blood by the door.

Bondoc was stabbed in the chest, back and neck although there were also struggle wounds on his face and arms, according to case investigator PO2 James Lagasca of the Manila Police District Homicide section.

The police said Bondoc was robbed of his cash, laptop computer, iPod, digital camera and video camera.

Roberto, the victim's father, went to Manila from San Simon, Pampanga, after he learned about his son's killing. He told the police that his son had just withdrawn the money that his other son, who was living in Ireland, sent them on Friday.

Roberto added that he had been waiting for his son to come home on last outing as he usually did every week, when he learned about his death.

"He was a kind, hardworking man. He had no enemies," Roberto said. He told the Inquirer that his son was a fun-loving person and that he had been helping his family out financially in the construction of a new house in Pampanga.

Roberto said that based on what his son's friends had told him, Bondoc had just come from a wedding. The victim's neighbors also said they last saw him when he arrived at his apartment at 10 p.m. on Saturday accompanied by two young men.

A digital camera found by the Bondoc family in one of the drawers in the victim's room showed several photos of two men taken at 10:42 p.m. on Saturday.

Investigators said they were trying to identify the men who, at the moment, were considered the main suspects in the victim's killing.

"There were three empty bottles of wine in the kitchen (so the two men) were drinking. My guess is that the victim went to take a bath and his companion/s were tempted to steal (his possessions). They probably panicked when he came out of the bathroom/s," Lagasca said.

He added that Bondoc had probably locked the door to the apartment to prevent the men from taking off with his things as he took a bath. This would explain why the door locks were destroyed from the inside, he said.

Lagasca added that at around midnight answering some of the victim's neighbors heard screams from yelling at each other about looking for a way out and their barricaded doorways on the second floor.

NOTHING much is left of Barangay San Roque on A. Lacuesta Street in Navotas after a fire swept through the area, killing 12 people and leaving 1,500 families homeless. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Councilor, 2 sons face raps

By Tina G. Santos

A BARANGAY councilor and his two sons are facing charges for allegedly stabbing to death a 16-year-old son of a policeman on that same afternoon in Pasay City.

Chief Insp. Raymund Lipardo, Pasay police investigation section chief, said Alex Pascual, a councilor at Barangay 117 Zone 13 in Pasay, and his sons Alvaro, 30, and Alvin, 26, would be charged with murder for the death of Raymart Cruz.

Cruz, a resident of Baganiha Street, was the son of PO3 Roberto Cruz of the Southern Police District.

The victim sustained two stab wounds and died on the way to the hospital.

Alvaro and Alvin were arrested by authorities but their father and their other alleged accomplices, mostly minors, remain at large.

Lipardo said they had launched a manhunt for the other fugitives.

Investigators showed that the stabbing happened at around 2 p.m. inside the Pasay City Sports Complex in Libertad.

The victim and his friends were swimming in the pool when the Pascuals and their companions accidently arrived.

It was not clear how the scuffle started but the police said a brief chase between the victim and the other group ensued until Cruz was stabbed by his attackers.

Lipardo said they were still trying to establish the motive for the killing but added that they were looking at going over an episodic incident.

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OPENS FEB.9

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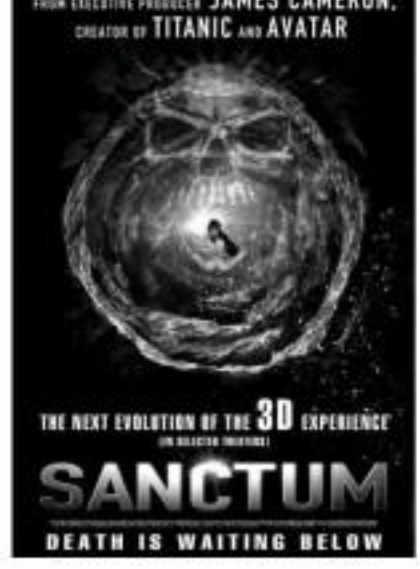

THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF THE 3D EXPERIENCE

SANCTUM

DEATH IS WAITING BELOW

12 killed in deadly Navotas City fire

From page A22

he added.

Ina Trinidad, the head teacher of San Roque High School which was beside the community, saw the fire from the fourth floor of her house starting. She described the scene as "hell-like."

"I could see from my window children jumping and not knowing what to do because the flames have blocked their way," Trinidad said, tears welling up in her eyes.

A portion of the second floor of the school was also destroyed in the fire.

Mary and Ronaldo Hamoullier, the parents of 18-year-old Gerald, said they still could not accept that their only son was killed.

"I needed to tell him to take care of his grandfather and to always stay by his side. Last night, that was exactly what he did, he did not leave his lola's side," Ronaldo said in between sobs.

He said he found Gerald's favorite toy far away from their house.

"He may have gone back for his grandfather. He should have run away and saved himself," May claimed in tears regarded him.

"He is now gone. I don't want to close my eyes because I keep seeing him in deep pain and shouting 'Mama, help me. It's very hot in here,'" she said.

Francis Agustin, the son of one of the fatalities, said he tried to go back to help his family.

"I knew my father and the others were still inside. I wanted to save them but some firefighters stopped me," he said.

But the firefighters also tried to leave the flames when he saw children wearing frantically for help, that he was stopped by his own colleagues.

"We couldn't stop after that. We wanted to save those children," the firefighter who asked not to be identified said.

Medes said the residents suspected that Malagasan may have started the fire because of previous instances in which he was seen playing with matches.

"According to his neighbors, he was a pyromaniac, clapping in joy when seeing something go up in flames," Medes added.

But the fire marshal said it was too early to say that the fire was caused by arson because witnesses had yet to submit their affidavits.

Based on estimates, P5 million worth of property was destroyed in the blaze.

The victims who have nowhere to go have been moved to the gymnasium of San Roque High School.

"Please help us. All the things we have worked so hard for are now gone," Jovita Reyes, a 57-year-old laundry worker, said.

METROBRIEFS

3 women file complaint vs Iranian

TWEET women partying at an upscale hotel bar in Muntinlupa City on Saturday accused an Iranian man of groping them. Chief Insp. Jimmy Tacaca, Southern Police District spokesperson, said the victims filed a complaint with the police after Hassan Bahrudin lined up their male companion, Homer Rabalo, who tried to intervene. Both men were brought to Asian Hospital for treatment, she said in a text message. The incident occurred at around 1 a.m. on Saturday at a bar in Bellevue Hotel in Ayala Alabang, while the women were on the dance floor. The Iranian approached them, touched their breasts and attempted to wrap his arms around them. Rabalo tried to stop him but he was attacked by the Iranian.

Nikko Dizon

MPD hosts medical, dental mission

The Manila Police District headquarters on United Nations Avenue in Manila turned into a clinic yesterday when the policemen hosted a day-long free medical and dental mission. The mission was largely sponsored by UNTV and nongovernmental organization Kamanggagawa Foundation Inc. (KFI). A 19-person medical team was stationed at the MPD Press Corps office as early as 6 a.m. while tents were set up at the parking lot for those who availed themselves of the free medical services and medicines. The free services also included medical consultation, dental extraction, optical consultation with free eyeglasses, blood typing, physical therapy and ECG. Of the 26 medical volunteers, one was a lawyer who doled out free legal advice. As of 3 p.m., the medical team had served around 1,000 beneficiaries, composed of mainly policemen personnel, their families and residents of neighboring barangays. Senior Supt. (MPD Police Corps president and one of the event organizers said: "We are targeting 2,000 patients by the cutoff time of 5 p.m. today," he said. The activity is set to be held twice, as will sponsor activities like this," Joseph Fernandez, KFI operations coordinator manager said.

Jayvee T. Gumil

It's official: South Sudan chooses to secede

JUBA, SUDAN—Close to 99 percent of south Sudanese chose to secede from the north in a landmark Jan. 9-15 referendum, according to the first complete preliminary results announced on Sunday.

Earlier partial results had put the outcome of the vote beyond doubt but official figures were announced publicly for the first time during a ceremony presided by president Salva Kiir in the southern capital Juba.

Chan Reec, the chairman of the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau in charge of polling in the south, said a whopping 99.57 percent of those who voted in the south chose secession.

Turnout in the south stood at 99 percent and only 14,526 people stood for Africa's largest country to remain united, said Reec, whose announcement was met by cheers from the crowd.

Mohamed Khalil Ibrahim, who chairs the overall referendum commission, said 58 percent of southerners residing in the north and 99 percent of overseas voters chose to break away.

"The results just announced are decisive," he said. "These results lead to a change of situation, that is the emergence of two states instead of one state."

Episcopalian Archbishop Daniel Deng opened the ceremony with a prayer.

"The prayer I say the people of southern Sudan have been waiting for for 55 years, the prayer of a country. Here the name of this land, southern Sudan," he said.

Senior southern leaders and diplomats also attended the ceremony organized at former rebel leader John Garang's mausoleum.

The revered former leader died in a plane crash after signing the January 2005 peace agreement that ended over two decades of deadly conflict between the Khartoum-dominated north and the mainly black Muslim south.

A SOUTHERN Sudanese woman watches over her belongings while waiting for a train. AFP

The emotional week-long referendum, which saw huge lines of dancing and praying voters form outside polling stations long before dawn on the first day of voting, was the centerpiece of the peace deal.

The international community has poured a ballot that allayed fears the defining moment in southern Sudan's history would be marred by violence.

In Khartoum, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who spearheaded the north's efforts to quash the rebellion during much of the 1983-2005 civil war, has already recognized the prospect of partition.

Earlier this month, he described the south's decision to become the world's 193rd state as "a very forgiving" and expressed hope the two countries would enjoy "friendly" relations, in comments that drew rare praise from Washington.

Figures published on Sunday on the commission's website, showing in account for 100 percent of ballots cast in both the north and the south, gave overwhelming backing to the 99.83 percent of the vote.

According to the commission website, 3,837,994 votes were cast. AFP

Tunisia leader returning from exile

RACHID Ghannouchi AFP

LONDON—Rachid Ghannouchi, the leader of Tunisia's Islamist movement Ennahda, boarded a plane on Sunday to return home from London after 22 years in exile, his daughter Soumaya told reporters.

Following the ousting of authoritarian ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Ghannouchi pledged in an Al Jazeera and joined with the Tunisian flag and embraced relatives.

"When I arrived home today I am returning to the Arab world as a whole," the 69-year-old said.

"I am still the leader of my party I want to organize a conference."

"If there are free and fair elections Ennahda will take part — in the legislative elections, not the presidential elections." He added: "There is still confusion regarding the political situation."

"The interim government is changing its ministers every day. It's not stable yet and its powers are non-clear yet."

Ghannouchi's return comes as the new government is stabilized after Ben Ali's shocking departure paved the way for democratic freedoms including lifting media controls, releasing political prisoners and registering banned parties.

The Islamist leader still officially has a life sentence from the old regime hanging over him for plotting against the state but in practice other convicted exiles have been able to return without any hitch since the revolt.

The government has drawn up an amnesty, which will have to go to parliament.

Asked whether he supported Sharia law, Ghannouchi told reporters: "All of these have no place in Tunisia. Our parties are have agreed alongside the opposition parties common ground, including approving freedom of conscience, political pluralism... and we have agreed on a paper on gender equality."

Ghannouchi's Ennahda is Tunisia (Awakening) movement, which was banned under Ben Ali, are expected to come in "little support to good bits.

He seems to turn his movement—which is still officially banned—into a political party that will contest the country's first democratic elections. AFP

Yearning for respect, Arabs find a voice

By Anthony Shadid

BEIRUT, LEBANON—In Yemen, the chants invoked Tunisia, a continent away. In Lebanon, newspapers dwelled on the fall of the Middle East was watching Egypt. A long-dead North African poet's most famous poem has become the anthem of a transient (in most) embodiment of revolutionary

Since Sept. 11, 2001, scholars has pinned the blame against the Arab world, an issue in Iraq and Lebanon, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Bush administration's policies, for good measure. Instead, they offer an answer that is more complicated in Yemen, Jordan and the rest of the Arab world looking for change, with a resolution to accept risk, especially given that even the worst possibilities are better than the status quo, " Talal Salman, the editor of al-Safir, wrote on Feb. 4.

A chant in Egypt put it more bluntly, playing on the long-standing chants of liberation that "Palestine is the solution," Tunisia," they shouted, "is the solution."

Unlike Eastern Europe, whose old order dissolved with breathtaking speed in 1989, Arab countries are divided in their ideologies and governments, though they often share the same complaints of their citizens and some degree of support by the US. Yet rarely has there been a moment when the Middle East felt so interconnected, so joined by a common grievance.

The Middle East is being drawn together by economic woes and a shared resentment that people have been denied dignity and respect. From Saudi Arabia to Egypt and beyond, Facebook, in this is a formal sense of failure and frustration.

"After so many years of political stagnation, we were left with dreams between the bad and the worse," said Talal Abdallah, a Lebanese writer and a former government minister. "Now there's a moment long passing in the Arab world. A collective voice is being heard again."

As a unifying force, as older Middle East had the voice of the Arabs, the widely popular radio station of Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt's charismatic but repressive leader from 1956 to 1970. Its role was creator, propaganda and music, most memorably of Umm Kulthum, the iconic Egyptian diva. Today it is Al Jazeera, and though its popularity pales before the singer's, the Tunisian poet, Abul-Qasim al-Shabi, whose work has seemed to define the protests and their aspirations.

The even Al Jazeera has turned its gaze inward. Always provocative and critical of the US and Israel, it has covered the Egyptian protests breathlessly as it did Tunisia's, sometimes even egging on protesters. It is joined by Facebook and Twitter, which have stitched together disparate places bound by a common language.

The changes may have deep repercussions for the US. Marwan Bishara, an analyst in Jordan, said economic frustrations animated resentment at governments perceived as agents of the US and its allies. In fact, a more democratic Arab world, given recent polling, is likely to be much more hostile to American policies.

But the preoccupation now is internal.

"Had they been able to resolve the underlying economic issues, people would have overlooked the corruption, the mismanagement, the authoritarian rule," said Abdel Aziz Abu Ismail Alexandrieg, a Saudi economist, speaking from Riyadh. "But when they had to do the bread and butter issues, people started looking at their governments."

Laith Khalifat, a veteran dissident in Jordan, said: "People want their freedom, people want their bread. People want to sing their many dictators from leaving their countries. I'd follow anybody. I'd follow Vladimir Lenin if he came and led us."

Ghalilas mentioned Shabi, the poet, who died at a young age in 1934. "If you're a people desirous live, their fates will answer their call," his most famous poem went. "And their night will then begin to fade, and their chains break and fall."

Slow

Erik Pinto Voss Service

Ex-pilot recalls capture of Nazi leader Goering

MISSOULA, MONTANA—Capt. Jo Foster had an extraordinary mission: Fly captured Nazi leader Hermann Goering to the 7th Army's headquarters for interrogation.

Then he took one look at the one-time heir to Adolf Hitler and commander of the fearsome Luftwaffe—all 300-plus pounds (136-plus kilos) of him—and knew he needed a bigger plane.

It was May 9, 1945, the day after World War II ended in Europe. Goering, Foster and a group of officers from the Army's 36th Infantry Division gathered on a tree-strewn airstrip outside Kitzbuhel, Austria, to leave post the highly prized war prisoner back to Germany to an unarmed, two-man reconnaissance plane.

"They wanted to get him back where he could be debriefed. There was a strong sense that it is impermissible in the Allied chain there is a Reich. There was a concentration of [German] military," Foster said. "He just acted as though it was a nice, friendly trip."

Mellem "Bo" Foster, now 99 and living in a Missoula nursing home, recently recounted the rare one-on-one encounter with one of the most wanted Nazi leaders. Foster went on as he became brigadier general of the Montana National Guard and was awarded the French Legion of Honor for his World War II service, but it was this mission that stood out as the highlight of an illustrious military career.

Goering, 52, had surrendered to the US Army's 36th Infantry Division the day before. He had fallen out of favor with Hitler and hadn't played an active role at the end of the war, though he remained Reichsmarschall of Nazi Germany.

Before his capture, Goering wrote a letter to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, offering to work with Eisenhower on the cessation of US. German troop's surrender, according to an account of Goering's capture by Brigadier Gen. Robert Stack kept by the 36th Infantry Division Association.

After receiving the letter, Stack and a group of soldiers drove from the division's base near Kitzbuhel across the border into Germany and intercepted a convoy that included Goering, his wife, daughter, sisters-in-law, household servants and military aides, according to the account.

Goering agreed to surrender unconditionally but asked that his family be cared for, and the Nazi leader was delivered to Foster for transport the next day.

Foster, who was 21 at the time, said he didn't fear getting shot down carrying such precious cargo alone in an unescorted, unarmed plane. He didn't worry about Goering taking advantage of the lack of a guard to wrest control of the aircraft.

The main problem, he said, was getting the two of them off the back seat and tried to listen to people in Yemen, Jordan and the rest of the Arab world looking for change, with a resolution to accept risk, especially given that even the worst possibilities are better than the status quo, " Talal Salman, the editor of al-Safir, wrote on Feb. 4.

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Slow

Erik Pinto Voss Service

GOERING at the height of his power. AP

for ground—the middle, lightweight Piper J-6 that Foster piloted in his artillery spotting missions wouldn't support both him and Goering. But the pilot, once only had the small airstrip that was fine for Foster's aircraft, but was problematic for taking off and landing larger planes.

They'd have to upgrade to the one U.S. in the division's inventory, a slightly larger aircraft Foster hadn't flown in years.

Goering stood on the tarmac wearing a plain, gray uniform that was unadorned but for a pistol at his hip and a medal around his neck. Still wearing the pistol, he stepped toward the plane. A Goering aide emerged from the group that had gathered and ordered Goering to give up the weapon.

The Nazi leader settled into the back seat and tried to listen to Foster's instructions through the headset that allowed the pilot and passenger to communicate.

Foster, who was 21 at the time, said he didn't fear getting shot down carrying such precious cargo alone in an unescorted, unarmed plane. He didn't worry about Goering taking advantage of the lack of a guard to wrest control of the aircraft.

The main problem, he said, was getting the two of them off

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

Holland freezes contacts with Iran after hanging of Iranian-Dutch woman

TEHRAN—The Netherlands has frozen contacts with Iran after Tehran hanged an Iranian-Dutch woman for drug smuggling, having initially arrested her for taking part in anti-government protests.

Zahra Bahrami's executions on Saturday brings the number of people hanged in Iran so far this year to 66—an average more than two a day...according to media reports.

"A drug trafficker named Zahra Bahrami, daughter of Ali, was hanged early on Saturday morning after she was convicted of selling and possessing drugs," the Tehran prosecutor's office said.

Dutch Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal "was profoundly shocked by the news, he called it an act committed by a barbarous regime," foreign ministry spokesman Bolaji van Leeuwenkoi said.

"The Netherlands has decided to freeze all contacts with Iran" after obtaining confirmation of Bahrami's execution from Iran's ambassador to the Netherlands Kazem Ghaeli Abadi, the ministry spokesman said.

"This concerns all official contacts between diplomats and civil servants," he added.

Bahrami, a 46-year old Iranian-born naturalized Dutch citizen, was reportedly arrested in December 2009 after joining a protest against the government while visiting relatives in the Islamic republic.

The prosecutor's office contended on Saturday that she had been arrested for "security crimes" but elaborated on the drug smuggling charge.

"The convict, a member of an international drug gang, smuggled cocaine to Iran using her Dutch citizenship and had twice shipped and distributed cocaine inside the country," it said.

Tehran, a month of her house, authorities found 400 grams of cocaine and 638 g of opium, the prosecutor's office said. Investigations revealed she had sold 158 g of cocaine in Iran, it added.

"The revolutionary court sentenced her to death for possessing 450 g of cocaine and participating in the selling of 158 g of cocaine," it said.

The Dutch government said it was "surprised" by Bahrami's execution.

"We didn't expect it at all," foreign ministry spokesman van Leeuwenkoi said, noting Iran's ambassador had "testified" to Dutch authorities on Friday that "all judicial means had not yet been exhausted." Of the 8 years in bilateral contacts, "it will be up to us to decide whether Iranian officials can or cannot meet the person they wish to meet," he said.

The Dutch authorities expressed their sympathy and condolences to Bahrami's family he said.

"We're still in contact with her family in Tehran, that's the reason why we wish to keep our ambassador in Tehran," he added.

The Netherlands had been seeking details about Bahrami's case and had accused Iranian officials of refusing the Dutch embassy access to her because they did not recognize her dual nationality.

But a statement from the Iranian embassy in the Netherlands said the affair was an "internal issue and should have no impact on the means of relations between the two countries." "We all regret the fact that an Iranian citizen has committed a crime that resulted in the capital punishment," said the statement.

The embassy also said she had been traveling using Dutch, Iranian and Spanish passports, all of which had different personal information.

It confirmed that Iran did not recognize dual nationality for its nationals. "Iran cannot but "relate my nationality did not affect her judicial case in Iran," said the statement.

Dutch broadcaster Radio Nederlands Wereldomroep, quoting Bahrami's daughter Banafsheh Nafjafpour, reported earlier this month that Bahrami was awaiting trial in a second capital case. In it, she had been accused of being in an armed opposition group.

There has been a spike in hangings this year in Iran, especially of convicted drug smugglers.

Last Monday Iran carried out the first execution of two political activists detained in street protests after the disputed presidential poll of 2009.

John Kaveni and Mohammad Ali Hajiaghaei, of the outlawed People's Mujahedeen of Iran, were hanged despite US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urging their release.

The executions have drawn criticism from Catherine Ashton, the bloc's chief diplomat, who is leading talks between world powers and Iran over Tehran's controversial nuclear program.

Along with China, Saudi Arabia and the United States, Iran has one of the highest numbers of executions each year. Adultery, murder, drug trafficking and other major crimes are all punishable by death. AFP

From Ninoy to Noynoy:
25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

"From Ninoy to Noynoy: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer" chronicles the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspaper of record.

From the tragic to the comic, and the many shades in between, the Inquirer's 25th anniversary offering highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the waning days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power I, the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of the early 1990s to the second Edsa People Power at the turn of the century. It ends in the beginning, as the core of the woman who lived and died opened its doors and agreed to write the country's story together.

Alongside the history of the "memorable people," the book is also the story of the Inquirer's growth in those years, from a paper financed by a talented engagement ring to a group of over a dozen publications with a presence in print, broadcast, online and mobile.

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Orcollo masters US ace for crown /A30

SPORTS

■ Ruthless Djokovic bags Aussie Open /A32

SCORE TALLY

COMPLETE RESULTS

Spurs 108, Rockets 95; Bucks 91, Nets 83; Mavericks 102, Hawks 91; Kings, 102, Hornets 96; Grizzlies 107, Wizards 93; Bulls 118, Pacers 89; Clippers 103, Bobcats 80

See story on Page A32

Racela, Danny I lift Beermen

San Miguel hangs on to forge 2-2 deadlock with Talk 'N Text

PBA PHILIPPINE CUP TITLE SERIES

By Marang B. Castillo

OLIVER RACELA said in his retirement speech Wednesday night that he wants to have another championship before he hangs up his sneakers.

Last night, he made sure that San Miguel lives says on course in to bid for the Philippine Cup title.

The 39th silver player starred in the most crucial plays of Game-4 of the best-of-seven series against Talk 'N Text, hitting four straight free throws inside the final 16.9 seconds to preserve a 91-87 victory and a 2-2 tie in the Araneta Coliseum.

"Talking pa ng mo [I need one more], coach," Racela said told Ato Agustin after his coach said that Olivo has won numerous championships and that his experience in those games is what the

Continued on Page A34

MANUEL Dyogue of Talk 'N Text tries to wiggle out of a three-in-double team laden San Miguel Beer's Dondon Hontiveros (left) and Danny Ildefonso in last night's Game 4 at the Araneta Coliseum.

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Bautista knocks out Barrera in 3rd round

By Ronnie Nacharinto

LUNG CITY—It was swift and decisive the time as Boy "Beam Beam" Bautista knocked out Mexican Alejandro Barrera in the third round of their rematch before a sellout crowd at the Pacific Grand Ballroom of the Winner Inner Hotel and Casino on Saturday night.

Bautista, who went with a controversial fourth-round TKO in their first featherweight meeting last August, first landed southpaw with a vicious left hook to the liver that sent the Mexican crumbling to the canvas to agony.

Barrera beat the count but Bautista pounced on him with a series of blows that again top-

BAUTISTA

pled the Mexican, who was counted out the time by referee Bruce McDonald.

The end came in 2:56 of the third round as Bautista improved to 30-2-3 with 21 KOs.

Barrera, who was talked with to continue because of a nasty cut under his left eye last August, dropped to 21-3-with 14 knockouts.

In a post-fight interview with the boxscore, Bautista said he trained hard for two months to prove his critics wrong.

Once more in her apparent to Manny Pacquiao, his stunner left after his first round TKO in a WBO super featherweight title fight against Emmel Rones Dos Lopez two years ago.

Bautista said he is willing to a rematch with Bruce Di Leon but ALA Promotions president Michael Aldegaer said he feels "Beam Beam" needs two more fight before he'll be ready for the rematching Mendoza.

In the supporting main event of the blockbuster fight card televised live by ABS-CBN over Channel 2, IV-year-old light welterweight Jayson Dagum also knocked out Indonesian Billy Sandoz in the first round.

Another Indonesian, Arthur Effendi, put on a gallant performance before fellow PBC light flyweight titlist champ Edrin Dapudong stopped him late in the seventh round.

T-BALL KING Dennis Orcollo pots a comprehensive 7-1 victory over Shane Van Boening in the title match in Indiana

DERBY CITY CLASSIC

Orcollo masters US ace for crown

FILIPINO Dennis Orcollo picked up from where he left off last year by claiming the 9-ball title of the 13th Annual Derby City Classic on Sunday at the Horseshoe Casino in Elizabeth, Indiana.

Flashing superb form, Orcollo whipped Shane Van Boening of the United States, 7-1, in the finals to remain an impressive run that started with his gold-medal triumph in the 9-ball event of the Guangzhou Asian Games last December.

The 22-year-old Orcollo, one of four sharpshooters of the Bay awarded by the Philippine Sportswriters Association every month, was also in dominating form in the semifinals, where he overwhelmed Filmtick ace Mika Immonen, 7-1.

Van Boening, on the other hand, had a tougher time, barely surviving Setle Feijen of the Netherlands, 7-5.

What everyone expected to be a tight shootdown turned out to be a rout as Orcollo, the top player of Bogey Promotions billiards stable of Perry Mariano, packed such superb precision to run out 61-8 break.

Nothing seemed to be going Van Boening's way as he missed a routine shot on the 8-3 on the fifth rack that spelled his doom.

Under pressure, Van Boening crumbled again in the eighth rack as an easy shot on the orange-3 bounced out, leaving an open table for Orcollo to clean up.

The victory gave Van Boening, however, was not enough to lift Orcollo to the "Master of The Table" title, which goes to the best all-around player in the tournament. The players also vied in straight, pool and one-pocket events.

Van Boening topped members Efren Reyes, Nick Dugenio, for the Master of the Table by 0.2 points and pocketed $20,000. Orcollo picked up $5,000, while Orcollo, whose billiards stint was backed by Awesi, Mahangat Life Gill and Bagay, finished third, worth $2,000.

Fil-Am, Aguilar SEA Games five hopefuls

By Jasmine W. Payo

A UE MCAA division II player and the combined Ateneo-La Salle squad are among the hopefuls trying for a slot in the national basketball team for the Southeast Asian Games this November in Indonesia.

Chris Newsome, a 6-foot-2 shooting guard with Filipino roots, and Aguilar, who was recently dropped from the Ateneo Blue team, were among the trained candidates for the PH five to be coached by Norman Black.

Over 30 varsity stars also attended a tryout last Saturday at the the Ateneo University gym as Black started the process of choosing his squad with emphasis on "size, speed and perimeter shooting."

Newsome plays for the New Mexico Highlands University in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference of the US NCAA Division II.

The 6-9 Aguilar, still recovering from an injury on his posterior cruciate ligament, said he expects to be back to shape in three months.

Newsome expresses hesitation at the idea of Aguilar with Smart Gilas, which finally decided to leave him behind when it competed in the Global International Tour last week.

"As much as possible I want to get experience from international tournaments," said the lanky Aguilar, who was a former Philippine Basketball Association reserve in the UE MCAA Division I team.

"Things have been up and down for me and sometimes I feel disappointed. But I'll be glad to play in the SEA Games. Right now, my playing rights are still with UAAP," Talk 'N Text's.

Newsome caught the eye of the Sarsaburg Shakerdot ng Pilipinas in previous batches of the national youth team.

"He's also set to enroll in Ateneo this year," Black said of Newsome, who averages 9.1 points, 4.1 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.8 steals with Lobo Athletics.

Only 12 players from the national pool will make it to the final lineup of the team aiming to defend the title it won in the 2007 edition in Thailand. The basketball tournament usually held in the 2009 SEA Games in Laos.

Smart Gilas captain Chris Tiu recently said he is interested to lead the SEA Games team.

Egypt quintet foils Gilas title bid

ALETIHAD Alexandria of Egypt exploited Marcus Douthit's early ejection, rallying in the fourth to pull off an 84-79 victory over Smart Gilas Pilipinas and clinch the 22nd Dubai International crown Saturday at the Al Ahli Indoor Stadium.

Douthit, the PH Team's unsubstitute centerpiece, was ejected along with Al Ittihad import Dereon Kelly after an altercation in the third quarter.

The 6-foot-10 former Los Angeles Lakers drafter reacted to an elbow from Kelly as they jockeyed for position under the basket.

Kelly slugged Douthit in the face and Douthit retaliated with a shove before game officials separated both players.

The Nationals seemed unruffled by the absence of their top offensive weapon as they took a 44-33 lead at the half. But the lack of another big body in the paint took its toll on the Nationals.

The taller Egyptians and their two other imports steadily chopped away at the lead and finally forged ahead in the closing minutes.

"It was a heartbreaking loss," said Smart Gilas manager Frankie Lim. "The breaks just didn't go our way."

Mac Baraquel led Smart Gilas with 26 points and skipper Chris Tiu, named Most Valuable Player of the tournament, added 12.

Aldrech Ramos and ex-skipper Mark Barroca contributed 10 and eight points each for Smart Gilas, which improved on its third-place finish last year.

Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman also complained about the long halftime intermission, which he said broke the team's momentum.

"The halftime break was extended from the usual 10 to 15 minutes to a whopping 45 minutes," said Antonio Assn Shaqpro

DOUTHITT Ejected ejection

Southern Ladies listing ends today

REGISTRATION FOR the Southern Ladies golf tournament ends today with a full roster, led by members of the national pool and the Philippine Ladies Professional Golf Association, expected to tee in the Feb. 2 to 5 event at the Sheraton Golf and Country Club.

Fee is pegged at P15,000, according to the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines. For inquiries, call 96.048 to 052-8777776, fax 8702-7566/8926, 09573467674.

Listing is also open at the BGCC at (034) 4730379 or fax (034) 4461790 or call 0933-8393400/0915-8924677).

Dottie Ardina will seek a second straight title in the 48th staging of the event.

Zobel Cup: Reds edge Grays

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAINT LAWRENCE recovered for half of the title's goals as the Arah Reds topped the rallying Arah Grays, 89-9, to take the high-seed match of the 4th Enrique Zobel Memorial Cup yesterday at the Enrique Zobel Field of the Manikwa Club in Makati.

The Jaypee-Enrique Lalonde hit three of his five goals in the second half of the six-thrakker contest, including a goal-touch shot to sink the Reds in top, 9-3.

"We're well balanced both offense (offensive) and defensive-ly, which is not always easy to do," said Simi Elizalde, who scored the Reds' first two goals.

"I think that's our advantage, plus in the end, we had better bones for the last two-holders."

The father-and-son Zobel tandem also came through on both ends with Alec scoring three, although the elder Hugo failed to finish the match due to injury.

Rafael, the Pumilio Whales pulled the decisive goal with a high-leng shot from 40 yards in the fourth and final chukker.

"We all pulled together, so it was gang-rubbers, gang-offense," said Filamer. "That's what was in the game. We just played fundamental polo and we were able to outshoot them. It was a lucky ride for us."

Filamer shot three goals, while Jimmy Barcasno and Jose Constantino tied one apiece for the Whites.

Two penalty shots, also from Filamer in the third chukker—the first from 60 yards and the other at 40—tied the game, 3-3, with 2:44 minutes left.

Filamer credited forwards Barcasno and Saint Johnston for their "well-set plays."

"They may not have scored but they punched the hole and got us those penalty shots," Filamer said.

Anthony Garcia led the Grays with four goals, but one attempt from the penalty line had the goal hitting Hugo Zobel's arm hard. Jap de Jesus replaced Zobel. With a report from Chris Martin, Contributor

HIT On Jesus (left) proves the Blacks' offensive & the fourth chukker of the two-goal match off the Whites' Sonny Barcasno at the MPC. RON ANTOLIN

From page A29

team's bench crew in a relief for Dan Green.

Racela and another sidekick, former two-time PBA Rookie of the Year, were the biggest figures in the stretch for San Miguel, with Belkombo hitting seven of his 17 points in the fourth quarter when the Tropang Texters gave spirited chase and almost pulled it out.

"San Jose-Clavo, you can always count on him in situations like that," Aguilar later told reporters in Filipino, while praising Racela for his all-around performance. "Whenever I need help, my captain always delivers."

The first two threats were the only points that Racela scored in 12 minutes of relief work as he eased the Bowmen from what could have been a monumental collapse after San Miguel blew a 17-point second quarter lead and a 76-61 huddle with 8:26 left to play.

"Marami na kami na-beat dyan," Racela said. "It took us two games to figure it out and we just have to outscore it. The experience factor will come in with the series now tied."

Belkombo also grabbed eight rebounds even as Jay Washington, crowned as the best import's first Player-of-the-Week honor on Jan. 24, led the Bowmen with 21 points and six rebounds.

Arwind Santos had 16 points even without playing with the street game style he said he would show after Game 3.

What he had were two critical injuries that almost cost the Bowmen the opening series win in Game 1 by pulling up a Jimmy Alapag pass that led to the first two Racela free throws that made it 89-85 with 52.3 left.

Harvey Carey then scored on a pullback of a Reinhold De Ocampo three-pointer to close the lid, one within two. Then Racela missed a triple try on the other end that left 14.3 seconds on the clock and ample time for the Texters to tie it all up.

But De Ocampo threw up an off-balanced jumper with Dondon Hontiveros jumping the ball in the direction of Racela, who made a driving stuth and was fouled by Jason Castro for the game-sealing charities.

De Ocampo paced the Texters with 19 points, Carey had 16 and 15 rebounds and Castro came alive in the fourth period to shoot 12-of-for 14-and-a-most-single-handedly-carry Talk 'N Text to victory.

"It's obvious the last two games that they've really gotten our number," Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes said. "It's up to us to find a way to score against their defense."

Jimmy Alapag was a marked man right from tip-off and the wily Talk 'N Text guard was held scoreless in the first two periods after being limited to just two lowed attempts.

Alapag went on to finish with just nine points in 38 minutes.

San Miguel grabbed leads of as many as 17 points late in the second quarter on Sunday Saturday, who scrambled a lead-tie sustained to Game 3, jumpstarted the Bowmen's offense.

In just over two minutes on the floor, Salvador hit a jumper and then a triple from deep left corner that opened up the Bowmen's first double-digit lead, 38-27 after just over a minute in the second period.

Aguilar then pulled a rabbit out of his hat in Dennis Miranda late in the quarter, and the former Ateneo guard responded not only by outscoring the defender on Alapag but also contributing offensively.

The celebration actually started early for San Miguel when Washington won the Best Player of the Conference award over Carey.

Washington bagged a second straight BPC plum after tallying 1,360 points out of a total of 1,607, with Carey totaling 728 and San Miguel's Junmar dawdling in third with 497 points.

Box Scores

So misses key move, crashes out of Corus chess lead

[illegible] 1 [illegible] 2 Anish Giri (Netherlands) 2½—1½ Nikolay Dyrdin, 3—Jan Smeets (Netherlands) 2½—1½ Nikolay Dyrdin, 4—Ni Hua (China) 2½—1½ Fabiano Caruana (Italy), 5—Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) 2½—1½ Anish Giri, 6—Loek van Wely (Netherlands) 2½—1½ Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), 7—Hou Yifan (China) 2½—1½ Wang Yue (China), 8—Ivan Cheparinov (Bulgaria) 2½—1½ Sergey Karjakin (Russia), 9—Levon Aronian (Armenia) 2½—1½ Viswanathan Anand (India), 10—Peter Svidler (Russia) 2½—1½ Gata Kamsky (USA).

WIJK AAN ZEE, NETHERLANDS—An often heart-breaking loss, another learning experience for GM Wesley So.

So played well enough to win the game—and possibly the title—but [illegible] slowed to an open endgame and lost to former world youth champion GM Luke McShane of England in the 13th round of the 72nd Tata Steel-Corus Group B chess championship at the de Moriaanse Gemeenschap Center here Saturday.

The 17-year-old Filipino champion, who was riding the crest of a four-game winning streak, missed the right continuation in a highly-tactical endgame and resigned in 49 moves of the Caro-Kann.

The win enabled McShane, who had overtaken GM Nigel Short to become Englands second highest rated player behind GM Michael Adams.

In the Feb. January ratings list, to move into a tie with Short for the lead with GM David Navara of Czech Republic going into the 13th and final round Sunday.

Navara, one of So's four victims, vaulted into the lead with a decisive win over GM Friso Nijboer of the Netherlands.

Shirhaan and Navara, who both have eight points, will be in a virtual championship match when they play each other in the final round.

So, on the other hand, dropped from first place into a tie for fourth to seventh places with seven points with GMs Le Quang Liem of Vietnam, Gabriel Sargissian of Armenia and Vlad Tkachiev of France.

On Sunday So will try to improve his standings when he takes on top-seed GM Vassily Ivanchuk (Elo 2727) of Ukraine with the white pieces in the final round.

CKSC, Hope claim hoop semis slots

FRIENDS Kaye Ocbian (7-5), Kaye Christine Ago (Ateneo) 5, Jessica Cayco (Ateneo) 5, Jane Lebrudo (Ateneo) 10-6, 20 Rebuenos

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Ruthless Djokovic bags Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—Novak Djokovic won his second Australian Open title, browbeating pard Andy Murray 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 Sunday to extend Britain's most 75-year drought in men's singles Grand Slams.

Murray has now been runner-up to three Grand Slam finals—losing to Roger Federer at both the 2008 US Open and the 2010 Australian Open before his third disappointment Sunday which enabled Djokovic to add to his 2008 Australian title.

The Scotsman has not won a set in a Grand Slam final. Last year, Murray had tears after his loss to Federer. They weren't immediately visible this year, but the host may have been just as bad after he lost seven straight games through the end of the first set and into the second and never appeared to be in the match.

The last British man to win a Grand Slam singles title was Fred Perry at the 1936 US Open—more than 27k majors ago.

Murray and Djokovic, who are each 23 and were born a week apart, are good friends and often practice together. At the coin flip ahead of the match, Djokovic smiled broadly for photos while Murray looked fidgety.

After the match, the two hugged, then Djokovic threw his racket, his shirt and then his shoes into the crowd.

The tool was closed on Rod Laver Arena for most of the day due to 30 Celsius (108 Fahrenheit) temperatures. Play was stopped just before the match started and after the weather had cooled significantly.

Trailing 3-4, Murray double-fizzled to hand off the 10th game of the first set. There he hit a back-hand into the net after a 20-hit point. Murray—fighting the final point of the set when he thought his forehand stayed in on the backline, but Djokovic walked away with the set in 59 minutes.

Djokovic held serve on four straight points to open the second set, then went 2-0 when he again broke Murray's service. Breaking off the point when Murray's attempted drop shot was returned crosscourt for a winner, Murray had five unforced errors in the first two games.

The Serbian player went up 3-1, then continued his domination in the next game, breaking Murray in four straight points to go up 4-0 and Sold for 5-0, his seventh straight game win. Murray finally stopped the carnage with an ace on game point to end 3-1, then broke Djokovic in the next game to reach the margin to 5-2.

Murray appeared to be having problems with his eyes, blinking often and rubbing them as he changed ends and as was during points. That didn't help in the next game when he again dropped serve and lost the second set in 40 minutes, Djokovic established no point with a service winner and then went off a near-impossible shot from Murray.

The third set started with Murray's second break of Djokovic's service in the match, but Djokovic reasserted Murray's dominance as he shot-lined by breaking him in the next game after an unforced error with Murray pounded his fist and yelled out in disgust.

Things didn't improve for Murray who held off on break points before Djokovic prevailed on the seventh in the fourth game. AP

NOVAK Djokovic flaunts a fiery determination on his way to his second Australian Open title, a feat that elevated the frustrations of Dinna Britain and Andy Murray (inset).

Spurs begin life at 40; Cousins lifts Kings

SAN ANTONIO—Manu Ginobili scored 22 points and the San Antonio Spurs became the first to reach 40 wins this season, beating the Houston Rockets 109-95 on Saturday night.

Richard Jefferson added 18 points to help the Spurs win their 10th in a row at home, the 6-man San Antonio's last game at home for three weeks with the Spurs embarking on their annual Rodeo Road Trip.

The NBA-best Spurs (40-7) will play nine straight on the road heading into the All-Star game, in which Spurs coach Gregg Popovich will direct the West squad.

Luis Scola led the Rockets with 23 points and 10 rebounds.

In Milwaukee, Australian Andrew Bogut had 17 points and 18 rebounds to help the Bucks at their third consecutive win, a 93-81 trashing of the New Jersey Nets.

In Dallas, Germany's Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 points and Jason Terry added 18 points and a season-high 11 assists to help the Mavericks rip the defiant Hawks, 102-91, and improve to 3-1 following a six-game losing streak.

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins had 23 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists as the Kings ended the New Orleans Hornets' winning streak at 10 games with a 102-96 triumph.

Sacramento never trailed in winning consecutive games for just the second time all season.

Fouled-plagued Tyreke Evans had nine of his 16 points in the fourth quarter for the Kings with Samuel Dalembert adding 10 points.

Editor Raul O. Manalo • Assistant Editor Carmie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Peso seen rising to 41.50 to a dollar

Local currency favored to gain sharply this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO will likely gain ground against the dollar at a faster pace than most Asian currencies this year as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas starts raising key interest rates to curb rising inflation pressures in the second quarter, European investment bank Credit Agricole CIB said.

In its January economic research titled "Bull in Asia's Cours," Credit Agricole projected that the BSP would start tightening the benchmark overnight borrowing rate by a quarter percentage point in June from the current 4 percent, followed by another 25 basis points by September for a total of 50 basis point this year. The BSP's overnight rate was seen rising further in 4.75 percent by March next year.

"The Philippine peso is one of our top picks in the region for 2011 as the current account surplus is likely to remain large (nearly 9 percent of gross domestic product) while valuations in the equity market are likely to continue attracting foreign portfolio flows," it pointed out.

"Moreover, as inflation is likely to begin edging up in the second quarter, we expect the rate-tightening cycle to begin commensurately, which would provide further support to the currency," it said.

The peso was forecast to end the first quarter at 43.30 against the dollar before rising to 42.70 by the second quarter, 42.30 by the third quarter and 41.50 by year's end. The local currency closed last Friday at P[illegible].

PESO B1

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Jan. 28, 2011
44.095

STOCK MARKET
Jan. 28, 2011
20.15
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Cautious trading to persist

LOCAL STOCKS are seen continuing to trade with caution this week as the market seeks the bottom of the ongoing correction from its record highs.

Last week, the share Philippine Stock Exchange index was up 0.4 percent to 3,973.34.

"The PSEi's correction period is causing several investors to cautious. The first quarter will be fueled by several support levels with 3,900 being the crucial level. Most activities are still seen in stocks with obvious growth stories while there are those with speculations involved," said AB Capital Securities analyst Maria Arlyn Mendoza.

She noted that the main index had broken two key support levels in a span of two weeks. The psychological 4,000 support was broken on Jan. 21 while the next key level of 3,900 was breached Monday last week, she said.

Nomura ee Sec.Limbank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the losses were still in control and that last week's close implied that any upside be limited to the 4,000-4,050 levels.

"A rally above the 4,150 level is needed to counter the current bearish sentiment. Failure to see this in the week ahead could signal a resumption of the correction trend testing the 3,900 - 3,920 levels in the near term," Ravelas said.

Nomura said that with the index on the bearish correction from record highs last year, the first quarter might pose as a challenge for investors to seek more trendy stocks with cent earnings growth.

Doris C. Dumlao

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SPACE-SAVING WONDERS ONLY AT BSA TWIN TOWERS

BSA TWIN TOWERS located at Ebl. Francis Square) between EM Magsaysay and the Podium — is now in full-construction advancement as it nears its completion and turnover by December 2011. Projected to be the tallest twin towers in the Philippines as certified by Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH-USA), BSA Twin Towers' unit features are perfect for your space-saving needs. BSA Twin Towers unit with walk-in closets are creatively planned and designed so that unit owners can maximize the use of their condo spaces. At BSA Twin Towers, unit owners can freely make use of their walk-in closets for their shoes, bags, clothes, accessories, and more without compromising elegance and style in terms of interior design. BSA Twin Towers is now 90% completed, and will also introduce the Condotel Advantage with attractive 8% return on investment per year. Hurry and visit our model units located at the 32nd floor of BSA Twin Towers! For more inquiries, call 632-1315 or 484-3388 or email us at businesscenter@philtreecorp.com.ph.

Ironman Gets High-Tech

PLDT SME Nation races with Ducati Pilipinas Motorcycle Club using vehicle tracking

Ironman Challenge VI

PLDT SME Nation supported the 2011 Ironman Challenge spearheaded by Ducati Pilipinas Motorcycle Club (DPMC) last January 8, 2011 at Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga.

The challenge was to complete the Northern Luzon loop of 1,200 km within 24 hours. DPMC had 24 riders, including celebrity participants Gaby Dela Merced in her Toyota Prius and Dominic Ochoa who drove his MINI Cooper. The participants took off from Clark at 12:30 AM and were expected to arrive at the finish line at Oxford Hotel around 8 PM.

The event highlighted the use of PLDT EAS Track SE, Complete Vehicle Tracking Solution, a real-time tracking tool. User-friendly displays feature Google Maps or Google Earth, educating riders on the internationally recognized way of understanding maps and directions. It has a built-in Philippine map database and a near user-friendly GPS data standard.

Through the Ironman Challenge, PLDT SME Nation uses it tools to entrepreneurs who want hard and know how to play hard as well.

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'Seasoned depositors'

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

IT SEEMS that the reluctant banks of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to speed up the processing and payout of insured deposit claims have driven to ISO depositors who have been unfavorably comparing service they have experienced with kind of depository who make a career out of hunting for banks offering cheap interest rates.

These "depositors" no longer mind that the banks may be highly at risk of folding up soon, knowing anyway that the PDIC is obliged to pay their funds up to just their principal amount, but the hubby rates already outstanding by these banks as well.

These "seasoned depositors," as PDIC chief Jesus "Jopet" Nograles describes them, seem to know their way around and no longer even bother to listen to instructions from PDIC staffers once a bank is placed under receivership. They just ask for the forms to fill up and await their payout. And after receiving their claims, they place all their chips into the next risky bank.

This is no laughing matter for PDIC, which is now investigating what could be a dizzying array of schemes. After all, this is called moral hazard: guests cheerily at the deposit interest, which is forced to continue paying above-market rates committed by the pulled-out banks.

Since PDIC can't tell depositors where to bank, the co-banking regulator like Bangko Sentral hopes that the latter will clamp on using the powers under its new charter to more closely monitor banks that offer interest rates deemed to be too high.

As banks that result to newly generous offerings are usually those desperately in search of cash injections, Bangko says if there's high interest rate set backed by sufficient capital and liquidity, it's a ground for citing the bank for unsafe and unsound practices. *Boots C. Bandoy*

Speaking of which...

HOW is it that the head of the agency that shares a bank a life-saving lifeline is removed from the board of directors of that very same bank?

That's exactly what happened to PDIC president Jopet Nograles after he was unceremoniously dismissed as a director of United Coconut Planters Bank last week.

As the reason for the "cutting economic advantage rule obligedly endorsed he illustrated, all but three of the bank's POGO-orientated directors were dismissed in a similar fashion.)

To recall, PDIC extended UCPB's P12-billion lifeline a few years ago with funds from its deposit insurance fund to the Bangko Sentral to shore up the capital of the ailing commercial bank. In return, PDIC received several seats the chairman on the bank's board in order to allow the regulator to monitor how the fund would now be used.

That changed last week when Nograles was told and—apparently just through a phone call—that he is not on the UCPB board. He could now be gone. In a new government nominee (supposedly an orderly of the new Finance Sec. Economic Manager).

As a top to the deposit insurer, the Bangko Sentral Monetary Board's Governor Amando Tetangco (Nograles' long-serving nonguarantee ...," said one person familiar with the issue.).

This left some bankers wondering: Is it proper for the Finance Chief Bo to depute a board member of its eight-to-representation on the bank's board?

Doreen L. Limon

Building homes, building stars

SIGHTING, when not engrossed with an estimated P25,000 spend on his makeup sessions, young actress Angelica Castro made a rather surprise. This July eight at the dressing backed from a fans to greet the launching of SM Development Corp.'s grand showroom at the Mall of Asia. "Glamorous" was how CEO Henry Sy Jr.—A.k.a. "Big Boy"—described SMDC's new face, whom Sy said represented an injection of hot-revamp customer. Filipinos could live a glamorous lifestyle in an SMDC unit.

Big Boy, who is friends with local movie mogul Mr. del Rosario, also confirmed that he would co-produce with Viva Films a series of movies that would build up Cutie into another biggie star. The "Cutie Project" "unconventional romantic and entertainment business, he said, using the perfect synergy with close to 200 movies—operated by 1M stalls.

If the films make money, Big Boy said he would like to co-produce a film every quarter. And what could be a better showroom than SMDC's 11,000-square-meter new area here in MOA? The makeover will see completed projects to be lift-up for Cutie' films.

For the last few minutes Kenyo, rumor SMDC's mission cards in Sta. Mesa, Manila, near Del Convergent and Tagaytay Highlands to figure prominently in her scenes.

Boots C. Bandoy

Trouble in paradise

LOCAL government officials in Camarines Sur are wrested by a crime upsurge, which could threaten the tourism boom in the province that has become one of the biggest destination for foreign travelers in recent years.

According to our sources, the perpetrators are using a tiny isle has prompted some local officials to ask Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo—himself a native of the province—to explore the private jets do-it-first.

Among the petitioners are the local league of barangay officials, the provincial chapter of the League of Municipalities and the provincial board, citing the police chief's allegedly "slowed" record in preventing the growing crime wave.

Consensus for has emerged in the councils top destination for foreign and local tourists in 2010, with a total of 4.4 million visitors, posting a 10-percent increase from the previous year's meager volume. In many attractions are in white beaches and exotic islands along with its first-class water park for subdivision dog and other sports activities.

Documents from the Department of Tourism (DOT) reveal that Camarines Sur overtaken Metro Manila and Cebu as the country's top tourist destination in the last two consecutive years and has thrice the number of tourist arrivals (1,879,172 persons) compared to Boracay Island (607,537 visitors) in 2010. *Doreen L. Limon*

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Peso seen rising to 41.50 ...

Turn to page B6

44.899 against the greenback.

By end-March next year, the peso was seen hitting up to 41.20 and further to 41 by end-June 2011.

Most Asian currencies are likely to gain ground against the dollar this year on the back of strong fundamentals. "We favor the Korean won and the Philippine peso to both rebound by having only pitchably recovered from depreciation during the earlier crisis, and [given] their relatively positive fundamentals/fundamental grounds," it said.

Credit Agricole said investors in G7 or the world's three biggest economies—United States, Japan and the euro zone—would gather pace this year but will fall far behind Asia. And although growth in Asia would likely moderate this year, the region was

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	1.1635	1.1000

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BUSINESS

Firms seen to benefit from tourism boom

PH can expect 3.5M visitors in medium term

By Doris C. Dumlao

IS RISE'S NO WAY for local tourism to go but up given the Philippines' strong niche in outdoor, medical, educational and ecumenical tourism, according to regional brokerage and investment group CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets.

In a special report dated Jan. 30, CLSA said it saw this upbeat outlook benefiting publicly listed companies like SM Investments Inc., Ayala Land Inc., SM Prime Holdings Inc., Alliance Global Group Inc., Megaworld Corp., Robinsons Land Corp., Belle Corp. and Cebu Air Inc.

The report, written by CLSA head of research for the Philippines Alfred Ng, said the ongoing global economic recovery coupled with improving access to tourist hotspots should entice foreigners to visit the Philippines in the coming years. It also noted that the Philippines was hosting two big events this first quarter: The World Hasher Cup (Jan. 17 to 22) and the 16th Air Balloon Festival (Feb. 10 to 12).

CLSA noted that the Department of Tourism was aiming for six million tourists by 2016, which should take in revenues of about $15 billion (equivalent to 3.0 percent of gross domestic product). The report said this could be for reasons why major companies were now making significant investments in the tourism space.

"In spite of recent negative events, we believe that prospects for the sector continue to be positive," the report said.

Even if the government does not do anything in the future to improve the attractiveness of the Philippines as a tourist destination, CLSA projected that tourist arrivals would likely hover in the 3 million to 3.5 million range in the medium term. But the report pointed that President Aquino was in fact pushing the DOT to come up with a new campaign slogan. It added that the upcoming 12 public-private partnership (PPP) projects in infrastructure worth $30 billion should further improve resources and within the Philippines.

Aside from the government, the private sector is also doing its part to make the Philippines a more attractive tourist destination.

Mainly due to its topography and warm climate, the report said the Philippines was ideally suited for outdoor tourism. "The variety of experiences the Philippines offers is truly amazing. Almost any inspired delight one fancies is available. Tiny white sand-ringed islets and emerald beaches; spectacular reefs teeming with brilliant fish during (through coral) gardens; azure waters to windsurf, sail, swim, and relax in; spectacular vibrant (through farms, mountains, and along seaside cliffs, caves to explore; hiking and trekking; world-class white water rafting and big-game fishing; and mountains and volcanoes to climb," it said.

BUSINESS

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Metrobank power unit seals 25-year supply deal

Panay Energy to provide electricity foir Visayas co-op

By Amy R. Borre

PANAY ENERGY Development Corp., a power generation company belonging to the Metrobank group of investor Isocge St., has received the regulator's approval for its 25-year power supply agreement with an electric cooperative in the Visayas.

In its order, the Energy Regulatory Commission gave the provisional approval to PEDC under the condition that the power generation rates in the changed to Antique Electric Cooperative Inc. (Anteco) during the pro-rata, mutual operations stage would be P2.3082 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

"The final generation cost that can be recovered shall be determined by the Commission in its decision in the instant application. In the event that the rates provisionally approved are lowered to be higher than the final rates, the amount corresponding to the excess shall be refunded by Anteco to its customers," the ERC explained.

The provisionally approved rate was much lower than PEDC's original proposal of P4.7127 per kWh.

"It is the policy of the commission that any generation rates to consumer end operation date should in no case be higher than the approved (time-of use rate being implemented in the Visayas by state-run National Power Corp.)," the ERC added.

Once PEDC's 300-megawatt power plant in Iloilo begins operations in March this year, the rates may reach P6.8289 per kWh, lower than the P6.2773 per kWh that was proposed by the power firm, based on ERC estimates. The Visayan Visayas TOU rate is pegged at P4.1471 per kWh.

Both Anteco and PEDC stressed that the electric power purchase agreement was necessary to ensure the quality and reliability of electric power in Panay, which has been experiencing power outages in the last few years.

"Thus, the expected additional capacity from PEDC, even as early as the testing and commissioning and pre-commercial operations of the power plant, will help alleviate the shortage of electric power in Panay and improve the quality and reliability of electric power delivered to Anteco's consumers," the parties said in their application filed with the ERC.

Under the power purchase agreement, PEDC will supply 7 MW to Anteco on take-and-pay basis, with an option to increase by 3 MW should the need arise over a 25-year period.

Prior to the agreement with PEDC, however, sources in electricity regulations from Visayas under a transitive supply contract (TSC). Under this contract, Napocor was obliged to supply Anteco with 15 MW of electricity, which was equivalent to the peak demand of the cooperative's franchise area as of March 2010.

Currently, Napocor's supply of power to the island of Panay has been unreliable following the sale of the state-run firm's power assets to the private sector.

According to Anteco, it has been experiencing power shortages due to problems in generation capacity and bad supply issues, apart from the recent transmission problems in the Leyte-Cebu submarine cable. Aggravating the situation was the closure of the remaining Napocor power plants servicing the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid during off-peak periods, after the state firm declared that the plants had become too costly to operate.

The 19.5-billion coal-fired power plant of PEDC is thus expected to provide the island the much needed additional capacity to stabilize the power supply there, although at a slightly higher cost.

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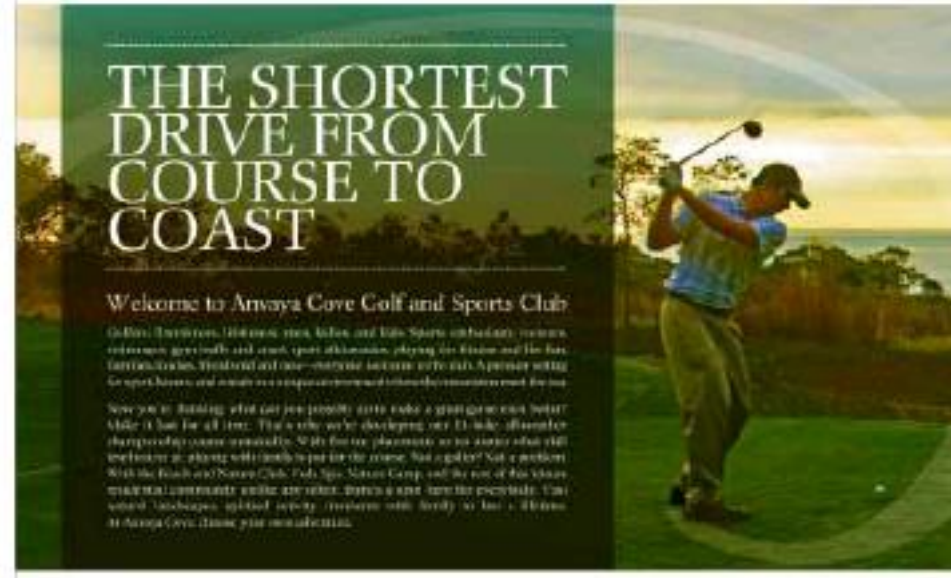

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Inflation expected to stay within 'comfortable'

Coat in the middle

BREAKTHE

Gonzalo & Ismael II

THE World Bank group in the Philippines, the IT providers of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) seem to be working overtime behind the scenes to establish their respective allies in the Aquino (Part II) administration.

Caught in their maneuvering, unfortunately is the LTO itself, a body large to unseat Virginia Torres, who happens to hail from Tarlac, the same province as our leader Benigno Simeon (a.k.a. BS).

Torres retired 3 godsend, Torres has been caught in the crossfire of cases among the government officials that assume have been because enamored in the Republican candidates' turnaround having for the past 3 (3 years more... and still counting).

Now involved in the flurry are Internal Affairs are the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Office of the Ombudsman (Tanodbayan).

The DOTC boss, Secretary Jun de Jesus, who was the public works secretary of the Aquino Tarlac administration, already asked the DOJ to appoint a outside lawyer to represent the DOTC in the case involving the LTO.

In effect, De Jesus wanted himself to choose the lawyer than the DOJ should assign to the LTO case, disregarding the prerogative of the DOJ to decide who among their lawyers have the background and expertise to handle certain cases.

At the same time, the DOTC and the DOJ have framed an salary out of those facts finding administrative violations the "grave, but culpable" of top LTO officials," which of course allowed

activity in the LTO to thrive.

Look at their track.... rubber lobby. Gives it to a prosperous something? You know... that the LTO officials, which of course delivered only to Torres, somehow did something wrong?

At the same, the DOTC-DOJ fact-finding mission already has a blue Board on seven regions. De Jesus created it as a creation as the claim of one of the warring groups in Tarlac, who accused Torres of siding with their enemies in the "color" group.

The leaders of one group is Enrique Quimbites, who once majority shareholder and small investor of Steelcase. In the other group are Silvestre Tejedor and Benedicto Bautista, who were booted out as LTO division some years ago by the Quimbites group.

The above were questions in another company that was part of the Highway project during the time of Hayo Kahlo, subordinate known as the old maintenance of farmers fund, since Rule 13 Samora. The successful company gave birth to layers of corporate entities that were, really bit in the creation of Bautista, which already did away with the Tejedor-Bautista group. That kind of work is always dispute.

Anyway, the focus among the DOJ-DOTC and the DOJ moved last month when the Tejedor-Bautista group, plus some warring parties, filed by policemen, took over the operations of Bautista at the LTO main office in Quezon City.

Such incidents the usual factor in dispute among owners of businesses, particularly those owned by families. Although the owners may have already ruled out any use of violence, it can take forever for the mediation to accept finally the ruling. Thus in have the cases, one of the groups may have to resort to forceful takeover of corporate premises and assets.

Still, it is hard to say whether or not explicitly still ordered by court rulings in this country. And the stockholders of Bautista must probably realized that court rulers were impossible to implement with outside use of... well, landmobile, etc.

Yet it is a fact that the Supreme Court already ruled on the Bautista and small investor case dispute. It's just that the ruling has yet to be followed. I mean, has to come to that.... already wants to follow the Supreme Court to the warring expression?

Last month, anyway when the Tejedor-Bautista group assumed newness control of the Bautista operations at the LTO main office in Quezon City, the LTO system is bogged down.

The network went to down in LTO offices all over the country, so those branches could not access the main database to process driver's licenses and vehicle registration records.

Now how could such a complete collapse of the system, time of LTO be possible? The news, how the Bautista-designed system did not provide a backup. Its emergency power system? It seems to be the case.

It also seems that only the Quimbites group, since they were in complete control of the LTO database in the Bautista system, had the technical know-how to restore the LTO operations.

Out of desperation, perhaps, De Jesus ordered the return of the Quimbites group to control the LTO system. It may be not really out of desperation.

Now, what I heard, one of the top officials in the DOTC urges the resolution out of the mess like this. De Jesus himself, regarding the establishment, your business of Bautista with the LTO.

It seemed out that the DOTC top official used to have a close connection with the Quimbites group. Indeed, it is a matter of time before the DOTC should start showing leaning toward the Quimbites group.

The Quimbites group already dislocated employees among the Bautista-Tejedor group, the LTO (in Torres) and the DOJ, service the public through a barrage of press releases, coming from with claims of DOTC favoritism as proof.

Yes, as I was recording as an press, the DOJ-DOTC fact-finding mission began to show Torres the supposed DOTC favorites.

What were repercussions of course was the reason why the DOTC action quickly simply had to surrender the claim of the Quimbites group. Whatever much ado, thank you, the DOJ-DOTC fact-finding mission indeed Torres is a power than she was, well, "not" culpable to anything that resulted from the protracted power of war between two groups of members of Bautista.

Really now, what is the danger to the daytime of rapprochement China?

Economists project rate hitting

By Michelle V. Ramos

DESPITE OIL price and fare hikes, economists still expect inflation in 2012 and 2013 to remain within levels considered comfortable, a survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The survey, which covered economists from banks and research units, showed that the respondents were expecting inflation for this year and the next to average at about 4.5 percent, which is within the official target range of 3 to 5 percent set by the government.

Year-to-year increases within the review period, it added, reasonably price may lead to pickup in demand inflation, the combined expectations of the year could temper inflation," the BSP said in a report using the results of the inflation outlook survey.

The Philippines imports the bulk of its oil requirements, thus it is vulnerable to increases in prices of fuels in the world market. However, the price is expected to increase appreciating this year, helping maintain the amount of fuel prices in the future, it said.

In 2000, the peso appreciated pressure by about 1 percent to close at 43.86 against the US dollar.

The appreciation was attributed to the

Easing of single borro

CITIBANK (Philippines) said it expects credit growth in the country to be 2013, saying that slower issuance of the single borrower's limit (SBL) and rising remittances are likely to fuel demand for corporate and consumer loans, respectively.

According to Benjie Valera, Citibank country head for the Philippines, the increased lending activity seen in 2012 will likely continue in the year ahead as an economic environment that encourages investments and consumption rises.

"The regulatory environment is ea

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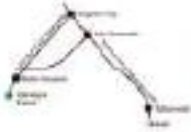

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' levels

4.1 percent in '11,'12

Medusa allots $80M for new Co-O plant

By Rina T. Oliveros

AUSTRALIAN-LED Medusa Mining Ltd. is planning to open a new mid-hundred gold plant to expand its operations in Surigao del Sur.

In a report, Medusa said its board had approved the commencement of a new Co-O plant in the province.

The plant capacity would be 200,000 ounces per year.

This is based on the current reserve grade at Medusa's Co-O mine in Surigao del Sur which allows the processing of up to 900,000 tons of gold per year.

The preliminary capital cost is in excess of under-five-year reserves estimated at $80 million. Medusa said it would finance the project with internal funds.

Construction of the new plant will start after required regulatory approvals are obtained. The plant will be completed between Q2 and Q3 results. The full benefits of the expansion are expected to be realized shortly thereafter," the company said.

Medusa is currently in preliminary discussions with engineering groups about process engineering and plant design.

Mining boutique involves company maximizing interest in licenses and distributes in terms of gold production and completion of expansion projects, subject to the approval of the Surigao Mining Investment Board.

Medusa's decision to approve the construction of a new mid-hundred mill to increase production capacity at Co-O to 200,000 ounces per year comes after it produced 2016 ounces of gold in the fourth quarter of 2012, up 8 percent from P2.11 billion in the same period of 2011.

Medusa reported improved gold production at its Co-O mine in Surigao del Sur, but its quarterly report for the period ending Dec. 31, 2012. Medusa said the Co-O mine produced 2016 ounces from 22,102 ounces in the same period of 2011.

Medusa said production operations were underpinned by the mine ramp-up for the planned doubling of the Claimants areas by expansion and maintenance of the shafts, mill liners and conveyor belt.

Similar statistics are given 10,900 tons while underground tonnes are was reduced to 11,000 tons.

Banks continue to tighten lending standards

THE COUNTRY'S commercial banks tightened somewhat with standards for mortgages in the fourth quarter of 2012, as they were less cautious against risks of increasing their exposure to defaults, a survey of the loan managers of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

According to the BSP's Loan Officers Survey for the fourth quarter of 2012 credit standards observed by the commercial banks and applied to mortgage loans were on overall net tightening compared with those in the third quarter.

Banks that demanded relatively credit standards are tighter and to assess include interest rates on loans, size of credit lines, loan maturity, collateral requirements and other loan requirements.

The results of the survey showed that the different factors for the credit standards applied by the commercial banks in mortgage borrowers, including small, medium, and large businesses, ranged +1.28 in the fourth quarter.

A positive diffusion index means that the respondent banks in the fourth that credit standards quarter as against the commitment the banks that loosened their standards. A negative diffusion index indicates that more banks eased their credit standards.

The diffusion index is computed as the percentage of respondent banks that tightened their credit standards less the percentage that eased their credit standards.

There were 11 commercial banks that participated in the survey.

The loans diffusion index weakened from +9.1 in the third quarter of 2012. The third-quarter index means that credit standards among the commercial banks during the third tightened compared with those in the second quarter.

The tightening of credit standards is consistent with observations by some economists that banks in the country overall they are enjoying record levels of liquidity and do not have to take on risk.

Economists said banks in the country have much room to push up their lending given their strong revenue streams and very low non-performing loans.

One factor the central bank views as the main contributing factor NPL ratio of universal and commercial banks ended at only 3.01 percent as of the end of November last year, down from 3.26 percent in the same month of the previous year.

The loans NPL ratio was comparable, if not even lower, than the levels seen prior to the Asian financial crisis. Given this economists said, banks should see a little more aggressive in lending.

Some economists down that banks are not lending enough simply because they may see comparable amounts from them deposits the BSP's financial depth increase (BSP) data by a virtually whether investments are. This was seen in the 2Q Asian a 4 percent income.

Michelle V. Rivera

wer's limit seen to boost demand for corporate, consumer loans

work, evidenced in the strength in businesses' confidence and development of the PPP initiatives, big ticket loans."

In 2013, outlook, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas announced interest to lend to a single borrower 25 percent of networth. The BSP issued a circular in 10 percent of the lending to banks to invest in infrastructure projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program. This is to promote investments in public infrastructure.

Under the PPP, the government invites private companies to invest in a list of privately public infrastructure projects, which are believed to be crucial to accelerate growth of the economy.

Values said the banking sector which enjoys strong liquidity had appetite to lend support to the government's big projects.

In the meantime, he said consumer loans, such as those used to purchase condominium prospective and automobiles, were expected to grow robustly this year given rising incomes.

He said rising and stable sources of household incomes give Filipinos consumers confidence to tap creditors to long-term loans. Values added that in, consumers were increasingly getting remittances from overseas Filipinos.

"Rising income levels supported by robust OFW remittances and sustained consumer confidence would certainly low, interest rate environment should continue to endure despite big ticket spend-ing by households," Values said.

The Chinbank researcher said consumer loans in the country would likely grow by at least 10 percent this year.

Latest data from the central bank show that outstanding loans from universal and commercial banks reached P2.26 trillion in the first 11 months of 2012, up 9 percent from P2.11 trillion in the same period of 2011.

The bulk of these loans, or P1.01 trillion, were extended to corporate entities. This was up 9 percent year-by-9.9 percent from P 92 billion.

Loans to consumers amounted to P980 billion, up year-by-year by 12 percent from P 875 billion.

The growth in loans last year was partly contributed to the low interest rate environment. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has kept its key interest rates, which influence commercial banks lending rates, at historic lows.

Michelle V. Rivera

BUSINESS

Dutch firm investing in energy ventures

Proponent awaiting final feed-in-tariff rates for solar resources

By Amy R. Remo

AS THE local solar energy sector nears its initial public offering (IPO), a European firm disclosed plans to invest in several solar powered generation facilities in the country.

At the sidelines of the Philippine Solar Power Alliance meeting, the Dutch-based SunConnect Projects BV said it was keen on teaming up with several local companies to tap the country's solar power resources.

Jan Schlingen, business development manager for SunConnect, said the company had started preparations for the setting up of several power projects that would have capacities ranging from 5 megawatts to 10 MW each, or a total of 50MW.

"At the moment, we are doing site visits, talking (to) the design and discussing with partners about business concepts and details as it moving," Schlingen said.

"We are (the developer and) we have local partners for the construction of the plants. We also take care of the financing—we can either do it ourselves or with partners," he added.

According to Schlingen, SunConnect is in talks with several banks and investors for the financing of the planned projects, the investments for which may run up to "low hundred millions."

While he did not disclose specific amounts, Schlingen said that total investments for their first several (FIT) rates for solar resources before it could proceed with the solar power projects.

The Energy Regulatory Commission has yet to issue the final FIT rates. It is awaiting the submission of the National Renewable Energy Board's recommendations which is scheduled for March this year.

This mechanism, provided under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, is a key factor in determining the economic and financial viability of the renewable energy projects.

Under the feed-in tariff system, developers are assured of future cash flows, as electricity end-users will be charged fixed amounts to cover the production of energy from renewable (RE) facilities in place, utilities can spread the cost of clean power among consumers.

The system is likewise expected to encourage investors to go into renewable energy development and production, and ensure stable pricing for energy in economically sustainable terms.

CANNES LIONS 2011 OPEN FOR ENTRIES

INQUIRER

Official Festival Representative

London, 27 January 2011 – The Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity is now accepting entries in all 13 categories for its 2011 awards – Film, Press, Outdoor, Direct, Media, Cyber, Radio, Promo & Activation, Titanium & Integrated, Design, PR, Film Craft and Creative Effectiveness – all of which will be judged and awarded by the distinguished jury of Cannes chairing June. Entry forms can be completed online at www.canneslions.com from today.

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Creative Effectiveness Lions: 4 March 2011 Film, Film Craft, Outdoor, Press, Design, Direct, Media, Radio, PR, Promo & Activation, Cyber, Titanium and Integrated Lions: 11 March 2011

NEW TO CANNES LIONS 2011: Changes to Agency of the Year

Previously, only points from Film, Film Craft, Press, Outdoor and Radio shortlisted and winning entries contributed to the award. To acknowledge the increasingly critical nature of integrated and Digital work, the Agency of the Year award will also include points won in Cyber, Titanium and Integrated Lions categories.

Tips on how to enter videos

Entrants looking for category information, rules, fees and tips should visit www.canneslions.com where they will also find a selection of short videos featuring jury presidents and jurors offering advice on creating an entry and how to capture the jury's attention. Amongst others, Luciano Deze (2011 Design Lions jury president), Paul Taylor (2010 PR Lions Jury President), Tor Guldh Wiik (2010 Outdoor Lions jury president), Lars Bastholm (2009 Cyber Lions Jury President) and Kenneth Finnare (2007 Promo & Activation Lions jury member) together with Tobiya Kuno (2009 Film Lions jury member) offer helpful advice based on their judging experiences.

Entries Viewing

For the first time, videos of all shortlisted entries across all categories, if supplied, will be available to view in the Palais des Festivals, providing delegates with a valuable and insightful experience.

For further information about the entry changes, how to submit work and to register to attend the Festival, please go to www.canneslions.com

PH tightens foot-and-mouth disease controls

PHILIPPINE VETERINARY quarantine officers, pork producers and hog raisers have tightened measures to protect local swine from foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) ahead of the Lunar New Year celebrations.

Authorities are anticipating waves of regional travellers who may smuggle the transmitted of disease such as FMD, which recently broke out in Korea.

The Philippines is being extra careful since it is seeking a declaration from Paris-based Office International des Epizooties (OIE) as an FMD-free country without vaccination. Such certification will pave the way for pork exports to Singapore and other markets.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Dennis Cabigan has activated all swine-quarantine officers and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to help prevent the entry of the FMD virus into the Philippines.

"You are directed to tighten your border controls (airports/seaports)...

In particular, among others, on baseline intelligence," Cabigan said in a letter to concerned agencies.

Cabigan also instructed field officials to encourage the proper disposal of swill (a mixture of food scraps and food scraps fed to swine).

"We have reasons to believe and feel that the Philippines are remain FMD-free with border screening and restrictions on items that might be carrying the FMD virus. The government also has travelers ready but using Davis will only be on last resort; in one we do get for by (NG) from outside. We don't see that happening," said Isabelo Chua, president of the Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines Inc., in a phone interview.

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Processor Boosting

Flour millers seeking shield from imports

By Riza T. Olchondra

PHILIPPINE FLOUR millers are seeking government protection against cheap flour imports from Turkey, where millers are said to enjoy various forms of subsidy.

Turkish flour, according to local millers, costs $500 per metric ton (MT) in Turkey but is declared to be lower than $300 per ton in the Philippines.

"We are now receiving reports that some Turkish flour are declared at $98 per ton. That's a bargain," Rizal Vicente Ong, executive director of the Philippine Association of Flour Millers (PAFM), told reporters.

Ong said the Turkish government provided various forms of subsidy to Turkish flour millers, who were already at an advantage due to their proximity to major wheat sources such as Russia, Ukraine and Northern Africa.

He said they are allowed to import high-quality wheat and make flour for domestic use. At the same time, they are exempted from paying value-added tax in their country for exporting low-quality or low-protein wheat.

"Because Turkish flour is highly subsidized and therefore cheap, Filipino bakers tend to buy it and mix it with local flour, which is of higher quality and suitable for breadmaking. No wonder Turkish flour now dominates 40 percent of our flour imports when we had never heard of Turkish flour four years ago," Perez said.

According to industry data, the Philippines imported 94,733 metric tons of flour in 2010, up by about 13 percent from 86,379 tons in 2009.

In contrast, local flour production remained flat at 1.1 million tons yearly.

"That's because all the growth is imported by importers. What more if we take into account smuggled flour," Perez said.

He said other industry groups in Southeast Asia were also having problems with Turkish flour.

Apparently, Indonesian flour millers are asking for a tariff hike of 40 percent to shield from Turkish flour.

Cepalco putting up more solar-powered facilities

CAGAYAN ELECTRIC Power and Light Co. Inc. plans to put up more solar-powered facilities in Cagayan de Oro, that will enable the power distribution and generation company to produce an additional 10 megawatts (MW) of power over the next three years.

At the sidelines of the Philippine Solar Power Alliance (PSPA) meeting, Cepalco chief Ramon C. Aboitiz said the company planned to construct the facilities in phases. The first phase involves the production of only 10 MW and will be in operation within one and a half years. The additional capacity of 40 MW will be available in another one-and-a-half years.

The third phase of the project, which targets to put in place facilities that can generate another 50 MW will push through if the government, through the Energy Regulatory Commission, would issue a definite feed-in-tariff rate for the use of solar resources, Aboitiz added.

By having a FIT rate, renewable energy developers are assured of future cash flows, as electricity end-users will be charged fixed amounts to cover the production of energy from renewable (RE) facilities in place, utilities can spread the cost of clean power among its customers.

Once the FIT rate has been established, the actual construction of the solar power facilities may even be fast tracked and completed within six months, he added.

According to Aboitiz, industry players have pegged the FIT rate for solar energy at P19 to P21 per kilowatt-hour—which may be the highest among renewable energy sources.

Currently, Cepalco, the company that owns and operates the only 1-MW solar plant in Cagayan de Oro, is in the process of bidding out the first phase of its solar power project. More than 10 companies have expressed their help for the engineering and construction of the facilities. Cepalco has trimmed the number to three, all of which are German companies, Aboitiz disclosed. Amy R. Remo

BUSINESS

PH-Japan venture pushes ₱6-B energy project

Ethanol plant, power facility in Isabela

By Amy R. Remo

FILIPINO-JAPANESE joint venture Green Future Innovations (GFI) is pushing through with its ₱6-billion bioethanol and cogeneration facility in Isabela, which will not only churn up supply of local ethanol but also provide jobs to more than 15,000 Filipinos in the rural areas.

At the launching ceremony Friday night, GFI president Reynaldo D. Buenaventura said the ethanol project, once it starts up-rations in the second quarter of 2012, would generate 54 million liters of bioethanol a year, displacing $27.5 million worth of imported fossil fuel.

The project, which will also generate 108,000 megawatt-hours (or about 300 MW) of electricity annually, is being funded with Japan's Itochu Corp. and JGC Corp., Taiwanese holding company CCO and other local counterpart firm Philippine Bioethanol and Energy Investments Corp. through the special purpose vehicle company Green Future.

According to Buenaventura, Green Future was hoping to further boost the local biofuels industry with its project, which can be considered the country's biggest ethanol project to date.

The country only has three ethanol facilities owned by San Carlos Bioenergy Inc., which produces 40 million liters a year; Leyte Agri Corp. with 30 million liters annually, and Bioni Bioenergy with 25 million liters a year. Their combined production can barely serve the requirements of the local oil companies.

Buenaventura noted that apart from the economic benefits, Green Future's ethanol project would bring massive socio-economic impact, particularly to farmers in the south.

The Isabela bioethanol project will green sugarcane on 13,000 hectares of idle and underdeveloped land for use as feedstock. Of the area, about 9,000 hectares will be sugarcane grown under the sales 2,000 hectares will be managed by Green Future's cooperator farms.

The project proponents have talked to farmers from San Mariano, Benito Soliven and Ilagan in Isabela and plan to sign contracts with about 9,000 farmer families to enable the company to grow 700,000 contract sugarcane a year from the 13,000 hectares.

"A substantial part of our farmland is idle right now. We'll be going from nothing to something and with all these opportunities for the municipality we expect a net positive impact," said Mariano Uy of Philippine Bioethanol and Energy.

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3:00 pm	"Sustainable Energy Project: The Makati Medical Center Experience"	Rose Montenegro, President Makati Medical Center
4:00 pm	"Sustainable Energy Financing: Where Can I Get Funding at Low Costs?"	Danny Reyes, Head BPI Leasing Corporation

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AGI an 'emerging blue chip'

Citisec recommends 'buy' on stock

By Dazzle L. Lucas

ALLIANCE GLOBAL Inc.—the holding company of tycoon Andrew Tan and the parent firm of Megaworld Corp.—is an emerging blue chip company and a good "proxy" for stock market investors looking to ride the supposed economic surge under the present Aquino administration.

As such, equity investors should include the stock in their portfolios, given its prospects in the tourism, gaming, retail estate and consumer businesses, Citimarket Online said in a newly published research note to its clients.

"We would like to point out the emergence of AGI as a key Philippine equity issue that merits the attention of investment portfolios," the stockbrokerage firm said. "In a complementary, we think that AGI is best positioned as a bet on a surging and hopeful Philippine economy under the new administration."

The recommendation—contained in a report distributed to the broker's high net worth clients—noted that AGI's exposure to "upward looking" sectors in property, fast food, alcoholic beverages and tourism "are less on consumption demand, for which usual proxies in the stock market have lost prominence."

In particular, the brokerage firm said SM has taken the place of traditional consumption demand-linked firm San Miguel Corp., which has now diversified into the energy and infrastructure businesses, while Ayala-land industry giant Ayalaland Foods Corp. remains "not distinguishable" as an equity investment play.

Citisec pointed out that even AGI's creditors have begun to classify the firm together with or even better than some of the best names in the Philippine corporate scene.

"The bond market has been positive on AGI as a credit risk, having been impressed by the success of AGI's first overseas debt issuance last August 2010," the report said. "[Its] $500-million unsecured bond was priced at 6.5 percent, reportedly the lowest coupon rate achieved by a Philippine issuer for overseas debt with a maturity of more than five years."

In comparison, First Pacific Co.—the Hong Kong-based parent of the PLDT group—placed $500 million last June 2010, which was priced at 7.37 percent, despite being assured key shares of its local infrastructure unit, Metro Pacific Investments Corp., Citisec said.

The research note explained that diversifying into gaming and tourism through AGI's new Resorts World hotel and casino investments complements Boracay City was a natural, value-added extension of property development that began with Megaworld.

"Therefore, AGI is venturing into a new business that it has a high degree of core competencies," it said.

"Even so, the company was wise enough not to be blinded by its historical success. We are impressed that it took the extra step of getting an equal stake in a strong partner—arguably of larger, successful conglomerate-size—to make sure that this new business will be a winner," it added, referring to Malaysian gaming giant Genting Group.

Union Bank net profit up 24% in 2010

UNIONBANK Union Bank of the Philippines grew its net profit last year by 24 percent to P3.35 billion as higher net interest earnings were complemented by trading gains.

Based on a regulatory filing, the bank posted a net interest income of P7.07 billion for the year, up 9.4 percent from a year earlier on tighter grip on interest expenses.

Other income also went up 4.3 percent to P4.15 billion mostly due to a 50-percent surge in net trading gains to P2.85 billion. This reflected a very good year for the treasury business as interest rates were kept at record low levels last year.

The bank's total expenditures went up 9.2 percent to P6.9 billion partly due to higher spending on salaries and employee benefits as well as taxes and licenses.

On the other hand, impairment provisioning went down to P624.16 billion from P1.97 billion a year ago.

Last year's earnings results brought up Unionbank's basic earnings a share to P8.35 from P6.74 in 2009.

Total resources went up 3.5 percent to P203 billion last year even as the loan book dipped 1.7 percent to P95.93 billion. Loans and receivables accounted for less than half of the bank's deposit liabilities of P192.53 billion, indicating ample room to increase lending this year. Doris C. Bumatay

SMDC to sell ₱10B in new shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY developer SM Development Corp. plans to sell up to P10 billion in fresh equity to selected institutional investors within the first semester to fund its rapid expansion and wither its public float.

In an interview at the launch of the company's grand showroom last week, SMDC vice chair and chief executive Jeremy H. Go announced that the company generated a net profit of P3 billion last year. This year, he said SMDC was targeting to breach a bottom line of "a little over P4 billion."

With the company's strong growth path in expansion in China, Go said SMDC might have to tap the capital markets in the first half of 2011 to raise new money and boost stock trading liquidity.

"We want to widen the public float because right now, [investors] always complain that shares are highly held. We're trying to see to it that the public float is around 30 percent," Go said.

Only 16 percent of SMDC outstanding stock is held by the public. New shares will likely be sold to foreign institutional investors through a private placement, Go said, adding there was enough room in SMDC's undiluted capital to issue new shares.

"My heart isn't determined to this jaw yet," he said. SMDC will tap a foreign investment bank or bring in international funds as strategic investors into the company, he said.

SMDC shares closed at P6.66 each at the local stock exchange on Friday, giving it a market capitalization of P68.4 billion.

Late last year, SMDC raised P11.7 billion from a stock rights offering to existing investors. SMDC is slashing its investment budget for 2011 to P9.9 billion to P9.9 billion in two high-rise residential developments in China adjacent to the SM shopping malls in the cities of Xiamen and Jinjiang, both in Fujian province. Outside of the planned investments in China, SMDC is also investing heavily in new projects in the Philippines this year.

"In China, we have to get all the permits but we're starting already.

Petron spent ₱7B for capex in 2010

By Amy R. Remo

PETRON CORP. said it spent close to P7 billion for major capital investment projects last year to help boost its refinery and marketing operations.

It is disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Friday, Petron reported that from the P4.8 billion it had raised from the issuance of preferred shares in March last year, it disbursed P6.92 billion for the repayment of its short-term debt, power plant project, marketing retail expansion and other related disbursements.

According to Petron, P1.9 billion was used to repay debt to help free up short-term credit lines available to the company, particularly for the importation of crude oil supply and petroleum products.

Another P1 billion was spent to expand the fuel's retail service network across the country as Petron sought to protect its leadership in the domestic oil industry.

About P1 billion a year has been programmed for expansion over the next five years, but this will have to be funded by other sources. Petron has earmarked only P1 billion out of the P10 billion investment proceeds for its marketing retail expansion program.

The oil company also reported that P1.06 billion has been spent for its planned 79-megawatt power plant in Batangas, the construction of which began early last year.

The P10-billion power facility, which is being put up solely by the company's refinery outpatient in Limay, Bataan, is expected to improve the reliability, operating flexibility and cost efficiency of the refinery to meet Petron's growing steam and power requirements. The facility is expected to start running by 2012.

The rest of its investment plans is also expected to generate P1.1 billion in savings annually for the oil company.

Yes, 690-GOLF(4653)

A new twist to an old favorite

THE NOKIA C3-01 Touch and Type is designed to be a fun one, easy-to-use messaging fan's handset.

The C3 Touch and Type's QWERTY camera has a dedicated function.

Text and photos by Charles E. Rotoni

THERE'S NO DOUBT: BEING something fresh but familiar may fend Nokia's C3-01 Touch and Type an interesting gadget.

The "01" to C3 is used to differentiate this candy bar mobile device from the other C3 that was introduced late July.

And unlike its older sibling, the C3 Touch and Type sheds the qwerty keyboard as well as its S-Pad.

Instead, the device features a conventional 12-key alphanumeric pad and, in compensation for the loss of other function keys, the C3 Touch and Type's wide 2.4-inch screen is now touch-responsive.

This enables easy access to messaging, social networking functions and other features.

Expensive!

With its brushed and polished aluminum shell and stainless steel body-battery cover, the C3 Touch and Type looks more expensive than its P6,800 average price tag.

Within its slim and lightweight body, which measures 11.1cm long, 4.75cm wide, 1.1cm at its thickest and 100g in weight, the C3 Touch and Type is equipped with HSDPA 10.2 Mbps, HSUPA 2 Mbps, Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n, Bluetooth 2.1 with A2DP, SNP, USB via MiniUSB Dash, microSD card support for up to 32 GB. One does access Internet browsers, social networking applications, etc.

The device boasts of a dedicated shutter button for the camera. The 5-MP snapper is not recommended on low light situations despite its LED flash. But it will be more than enough for outdoor use, or whenever there is ample sunlight.

Like all Nokia phones, using the C3 Touch and Type is very straightforward. Once you've turned it on, you're literally one click away from setting up the e-mail, IMSTP, IMAP4, POP3, Ovi, Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Yes, the C3 Touch and Type is designed for those who are already adept at using SMS text during social networking and e-mailing via the 12 keys.

Handy

The touchscreen on the other hand is handy when setting up alarms, browsing and control-ling applications like music and games via the touchscreen.

But the resistive touchscreen with 262K colors support and 240x320 pixels resolution, while bright and crisp, is less sensitive than its capacitive-screened counterparts.

Safe saying, and e-mail response is a bit to be desired as the browser is slow to respond to commands. When scrolling through longer lists, it doesn't work quite as well, because you have to consciously press the keys a bit harder.

The device, powered by Symbian S40 6th edition, does not support multitouch zooming and other advanced touch-screen features available in fancy-er smartphones.

Despite these shortcomings, the C3 Touch and type is friendly and familiar, and perfect for those who are not bothered about its lack of whizz.

Nokia has always been famed for its standard devices, and the C3 Touch and Type is one excellent example on how an old favorite is given a new twist.

EMC's VNXe series provides SMBs affordable but highly efficient and reliable storage solutions.

Storing, managing vital data for small businesses

By Thereon S. Sumalinga

SINGAPORE—WITH practically most of the banks now being done over the information superhighway, having available data storage systems has become, more than ever, a critical concern, especially for those that maintain valuable and confidential files.

Local and foreign companies, at least those who can afford to do so, invest huge sums to control such storage systems.

Recently, a number of storage solutions have become available in the market—solutions that are not as costly as those introduced by traditional tools.

These systems allow small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) to function well in this digital age.

VNXe3150

To address the needs and demands of small businesses, EMC Corp. recently unveiled here its "simple, efficient and affordable EMC VNXe series unified storage systems."

EMC, the world's leading developer and provider of information infrastructure technology and solutions, said this particular unified storage system would enable its partners to address the demand for the so-called Storage Area Networks (SAN) and Network Attached Storage (NAS) solutions.

According to EMC, the VNXe systems were designed specifically for SMBs. It also provides departments-level storage solutions for the branch offices of enterprises. The system combines simplicity with advanced performance, availability and efficiency.

With the introduction of the VNXe, the company can say, for the first time, a broad range of new and existing partners...apart from the huge multinationals to which EMC used to exclusively provide the services.

With the VNXe series now part of its portfolio, EMC can readily bundle advanced storage technology into comprehensive, differentiated solutions for SMB customers.

Officials here said that the VNXe series, in fact, remains to be the world's simplest unified storage system, providing application-optimized management and user-friendly help and support. These solutions were the result of several years of development designed to meet the needs of SMBs.

According to EMC officials, this particular storage solution allows constant access to world-wide online connectivity.

The company utilized based setup and application wizards provisioning, enables customers to configure storage for NAS exchange shutdown—et. I. analysis of Windows data access—in a matter of minutes, the company added. It likewise has an integrated self help and support functionality that speeds up problem resolution.

Another plus to this storage solution is the automatic double storage capacity utilization by way of advanced data reduction methodologies. It further has advanced efficiency features that includes data provisioning, file deduplication and compression. Other features also include an advance 6 Gbps high performance SAS and nearline SAS drive for high capacity support, as well as scalability of up to 128 disk drives, or 2400 terabytes.

For the Philippine market, the introduction of the VNXe may prove to be most relevant for local industries, said Ronnie Lamoste, country manager of EMC Corp.

Lamoste told reporters here that the company hopes to cop the Philippine SME market, which he anticipated the clouds of businesses in the country. EMC hopes to further strengthen and grow the company's 48 percent current market share here.

Lamoste said the company would want to show local SMBs savvy from the traditional ways of storing data, such as through external storages or tapes, which proved higher risks and costs in the long run.

With the traditional systems, small businesses risk losing data after a certain period. Those data may also be accessed by just about anyone who have adequate IT expertise for exploitation.

In the end, SMBs would have to shell out even more in addition to their problems, when they could have just easily invested in a single, reliable product such as the VNXe, Lamoste said.

The Bold and the powerful

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BLACKBERRY Storm (9530) is intriguing to investors and one of the most powerful BlackBerry devices to the Philippines—the Bold 9700.

The phone features "a precision and iconic design with an incredibly easy-to-use keyboard and optical trackpad," RIM functional Asia managing director Gregory Wride said. "The Bold 9700 is elegantly styled and packed with advanced communications, exceptional keyboard and a brilliant display."

According to RIM, the new device will cater to users who demand high performance.

"It comes with the popular new BlackBerry 6 operating system and delivers a truly outstanding mobile experience. We are confident that the BlackBerry Bold 9700 will be well received by customers in the Philippines," Wride said.

"The Bold 9700 offers a compelling blend of features, performance and design. It supports 20 networks around the world, as well as Wi-Fi, connectivity and GPS for location based applications and push-to-talk."

Its five-megapixel camera comes with a full complement of high-end features, including continuous auto focus, xenon strobe, image stabilization, flash and video recording.

The device also includes a 512 megabyte flash memory and expandable memory and also that supports up to 32 gigabytes of storage.

BDO Trust Launches the BDO Easy Investment Plan

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INFOTECH

It's Smart and it's Android

By Paola D. Manosalin

AS PART of its push to promote Internet access for all Filipinos, Smart Communications has introduced one of the world's most affordable and high-quality smartphones.

In a statement over the weekend, Smart announced the launch of three phones made by Chinese phone maker Huawei.

With this device—billed to be the world's first affordable Android smartphone—Smart said it would be in a position to strengthen its leadership in this category by completing its range of smart phones, from high-end to mass-market handsets.

Smart is expected to offer Ideos within a price range of P5,800 and P6,000 for prepaid units. It will also bundle a monthly plan of as low as P500 for postpaid subscribers. Company officials said more Smartphone models are in the pipeline.

"Mobile Internet usage in the Philippines has been growing steadily, and is now poised to take off. We will now take it to the next level with smartphones that are affordable to a broader market. This is in line with our vision of 'Internet for all,'" Smart's chief wireless adviser Orlando B. Vea said.

Powered by the Google Android 2.1 operating system, the new phones can be customized with communication, entertainment, productivity and gaming applications—more than 70,000 of which are available in the Android Market.

The company said there are now 30 million Internet users in the Philippines, and majority of these gain access to the world-wide Web through Internet cafés, Smart said.

Only about 20 percent of the Philippine population had access to personal computers, it added.

And though prices of these devices, including laptops and netbooks, have fallen in recent years, industry analysts expect that web-enabled mobile phones will soon become the most pervasive means of accessing the Internet, especially for lower-income consumers.

"Though we're ahead in this market, with about 6 million Smart mobile subscribers accessing the Internet, there is a lot of headroom for growth if you look at the total Internet market," said Danilo J. Ibañez, head of Smart's wireless consumer division.

Social networking, e-mail and browsing are among the most popular mobile Internet applications.

"Filipinos take to the Internet like ducks to water. For Facebook alone, we have contributed more than 20 million to its total membership. And this is when many Filipinos still do not have easy access to the Internet yet," Mojica said.

"Smartphones, like Ideos, will be especially helpful in promoting Internet usage because these devices are driven by touch-screen applications, enabling users to easily access useful, bite-sized chunks of the Internet like Facebook updates, games, music and other services," he added.

Telco pays heed to budget users

DOMINANT CARRIER Smart Communications Inc. has established budget-conscious mobile phone users to easily access the Internet.

Mobile phone users with Internet-capable devices may now access the Web for as low as P1 a minute—enough for a Facebook or Twitter update, which is what most users are interested in whenever they access the Web.

With this new offer, prepaid subscribers with a load balance of P10 or below can call, log in at the rate of P1 per minute, the company said. Users only need to have a maintaining balance of one peso in their account.

"We know that our subscribers use mobile Internet differently from, say, those not on PCs, where they have the luxury of a bigger screen. On mobile, instead of leisurely surfing, it is more interactive because people typically just do quick checks on their social networks and their e-mail accounts while on the go," said Danilo J. Mojica, head of Smart's Wireless Consumer Division.

He said the new offer was designed for users who wouldn't usually spend long periods of time on the Internet on their mobile phones.

"They go online just to check their Facebook accounts, post 'status update,' 'tweet' and respond to e-mail messages. These activities take just a few minutes. With this new offer, you can get started and chunks of the Internet while on the go—even when you don't have a lot of airtime load," Mojica said.

Last year, Smart reported that close to eight million Smart Buddy and Smart Gold subscribers accessed the Internet on their cellular phones—the highest among all Philippine operators.

Smart, a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., is the country's largest mobile network with a subscriber base of over 44 million users.

PLDT is owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. and Japan's NTT DoCoMo.

Paola G. Manosalin

New WD drive delivers dizzying dose of zeroes

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

IN 1985, a personal computer could store less than 20 megabytes of storage. Twenty-eight years later, it may take at least 2 terabytes of digital data storage to keep an average user happy.

The prefix "tera" translates to one billion bytes (1 gigabyte).

Still, more digital content is being created. Soon, users' priorities will again be turned as they run out of storage to keep their most important files.

Western Digital anticipated this development and promptly launched the WD Caviar Green 2 TB (translated—the world's largest capacity SATA drive now available in the market.

"Exploding content creation and consumption are driving demand for drives once again, thus creating opportunity for WD to multiple markets," said Andy Ho, the company's senior director for sales in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

Founded in 1970, Western Digital today is one of the industry's leading makers of external storage, hard drives and solid state drives, apart from home entertainment products and software.

The Caviar Green, WD's erstwhile hard drive that require lower power consumption, is the fifth generation in the product line.

"WD is changing the way data is stored with the use of the Advanced Format technology (AFT)," said Albert Chang, director, Digital's senior manager for product marketing, during a recent launch held in Makati City.

Western Digital was able to come out with a drive that could store such massive amounts of data by utilizing 750-gigabyte platter areal density. AFT has improved the latest correction power and sector sizes, allowing the D Caviar Green to perform at optimum level, according to Chang.

"By using AFT technology, an additional 7 to 11 percent of additional disk space is created right away," he said.

While storage capacity has expanded, the WD Caviar Green's physical size has gotten smaller. The drive only measures 3.5 inches in width and an inch in height.

Also, the WD Caviar Green features the GreenPower Technology that allows it to yield lower operating temperatures for increased reliability and low acoustics for ultra-quiet PCs and external drives.

It also has the IntelliSeek seek load technology, where the resulting head movements reaches the disk media, resulting significantly improved to the resulting head and media as well as better drive performance overall.

"It's perfect for backing up the hundreds, even thousands, of pictures and videos you take when you go on vacation because you don't want to cry if you lose those captured moments," said Chang.

Chang is quick to point out though that there are certain requirements to successfully integrate larger capacity drives in your devices.

That is why WD is bundling its Caviar Green 2.1TB and 2TB hard drives with an advanced Host Controller Interface (AHCI)-compliant host bus adapter, which enables the operating system to use a known driver with control support for large-capacity drives.

The WD Caviar Green 2TB works seamlessly with Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Mac. But it will not work with Windows XP (32-bit and 64-bit), Chang said.

BUSINESS

PH firms stand to gain from new trends in China

Multinational companies search for other bases for operation

By Abigail L. Ho

AN INCREASING number of multinational firms are changing their strategy of outsourcing all their manufacturing activities to China, and the Philippines is one of the countries that stand to significantly benefit from this trend.

"Global players have been strategically looking for an alternative manufacturing base to China, resulting from the so-called China 'fatigue' effect. Multinational clients do not want to be solely dependent on a single large supplier base, to cushion them from political or economic risks. They are considering other locations with competitive manufacturing capacity," Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said in a statement.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the Philippines had a strong chance of being considered an alternative to China due to its location and pool of highly skilled and trainable workers.

The country likewise has an ample supply of management talent and knowledge workers.

With various trade agreements between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other countries now in force, the region as a whole has become an even more attractive place to invest in.

He added that the region's high growth, coupled with those of China and India, had likewise made the country an "ideal staging point" for medium- to high-priced brands targeted for these markets.

He cited as an example the manufacture of branded wearables such as Adidas, Ann Taylor, Gap, Old Navy and Ralph Lauren in Asian countries, including the Philippines. Consumer electronics firms Nokia, Motorola and Samsung had also adopted this supply-chain model.

China National Garment Association secretary general Wang Zhan acknowledged that recent developments gave Philippine garment manufacturers a chance to revive the industry.

He related that Chinese clothing line JNHE known for producing clothing that could be used in multiple ways, had started outsourcing small orders to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, but was still looking for other countries to outsource to, particularly within Southeast Asia.

"These countries still don't offer complete solutions. The production capability and speed of delivery are also lacking. There's also a communication problem that has to be taken into consideration," he said.

Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines president Lawrence delos Santos had said that the Philippines might not offer the lowest prices in comparison, but a provided high-level service quality and reliability, something that its counterparts in other countries still lacked.

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

TCT No.	Location	Type	Land Area (+/- sq.m. more or less)	Appraised Mortgage Bid (Php)	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
38978 42155 42156	Bearing postal address No. 83 & 93, currently occupied & utilized as a store factory of "Irene Shoes" located at the southeast corner of Dragon Street, extending southwestly to Bangalow Street, about 500 m. west from Mayor Gil Fernando Avenue, some 700 m. northwest from the intersection of Marcos Highway and Mayor Gil Fernando Avenue, in the vicinity of Sta. Lucia East Mall	3 Contiguous Industrial/ Residential Land	216 329 313	1,300,000 4,000,000 (aggregate for two lots)	Feb. 03, 2011 10:00 a.m.	Office of the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff, Marikina City, located at the New Hall of Justice, City Hall Cmpd., Marikina City
N-98892	Bearing postal address No. 47, serves as an extension of Irene Shoes, north side of Dragon Street	Industrial/ Residential Land	216	1,300,000		
187151	Northeast side of Vesper Street being the 3rd lot or about 20 m. east from Whitehaven Street, within Progreso Village, Barangay Malanday, Marikina City	Residential Land	264	1,000,000		
224935 224936	North side of J. P. Rizal Street, extending northwestly to Ortigas Street, within Ayala Village, Brgy. Concepcion I, Marikina City	2 Contiguous Industrial/ Commercial Land	995 313	2,000,000 (aggregate for two lots)		

All properties are to be sold on "As-is, Where-is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through the verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction dates.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 891-1008 or send an email to: foreclosureproperties@prestigeasset.com

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Satellite Office: Alon Manpower Services
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Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

St. Isadore, the Ignoble Church	12:15 PM & 6:30 PM
The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart	7:30 AM & 12:15 PM
St. John Bosco Parish Church	7:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Antonio	12:00 PM & 6:00 PM
St. Roque Parish, Parroco, Metro Manila	6:30 AM
San Pedro Parish, San Pedro, Laguna	6:00 AM
St. Paul Parish Church, Richmond, B.C. Canada	8:00 AM
Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver, B.C. Canada	12:10 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Church,	8:30 AM

His wife Aurora; children Randall & Charry, Ron & Rina, Rick & Jenny; and grandson Ali request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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3) Cottage Industries Technician II (SG-11, Item no. 7310-0035, Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Education with appropriate major concentration; 1 year of experience in Cottage Designing; Eligibility: LET

4) Cottage Industries Technician I (SG-10, Item nos. 7310-0032, 7310-0033, 7310-0034, Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Education; 1 year experience in teaching vocational course preferably with consumer knowledge; Eligibility: LET

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105 HV Dela Costa St.
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Units:

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17th Floor	692.36 sqm
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19th Floor	692.74 sqm
20th Floor	680.74 sqm
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22nd Floor	680.74 sqm
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26th Floor	680.74 sqm
28th Floor	680.74 sqm
27th Floor	680.74 sqm

Sale price: P31,000/sqm +VAT with financing

For further information please contact:
Jessie Rex S. Chua
Petron Corporation
Tel: 884 0329
Mobile: 0918 9798718
Email: jessierchua@yahoo.com

PETRON

For Sale- Makati Office Space
Petron Megaplaza Building

Location: Petron MegaPlaza
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Units:

28th Floor	1,530 sqm
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30th Floor	1,530 sqm
31st Floor	1,530 sqm
32nd Floor	1,530 sqm
34th Floor	1,530 sqm
35th Floor	1,530 sqm
36th Floor	1,530 sqm
37th Floor	997 sqm
38th Floor	997 sqm
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For further information please contact:
Jessie Rex S. Chua
Petron Corporation
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Mobile: 0918 9798718
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CHAIRMAN & BOARD
Administrator

PSALM
Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation

INVITATION TO BID
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COAL TO PSALM CORPORATION FOR CY 2011

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation, through its CY 2011 Corporate Operating Budget, invites bids for the supply and delivery of requested steaming coal and hand (blending coal for Naga Power Plant Complex for CY 2011. The quantity and Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this requirement are as follows:

Schedule/Plant	Quantity (MT)	ABC
Schedule I Imported Steaming Coal for Naga Coal Thermal Power Plant 1	80,000 ± 10%	Php 4,200,000.00
Schedule II Local Blending Coal for Naga Coal Thermal Power Plant II	80,000 ± 10%	Php 400,000.00

The details of the requirement are described in the Bidding Documents. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and/or citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Foreign bidders shall submit a certification from the foreign country or country of origin that its laws or regulations grant similar rights and privileges to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PSALM Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders beginning on 31 January 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos Only (PhP 20,000.00), for each schedule. The method of payment will be either cash or cashier's/manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representatives.

4. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded from the websites of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and PSALM Corporation. Bids submitted by the prospective bidders using the documents from the websites will be accepted provided that Bidders shall have paid the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents before the submission of their bids.

5. The PSALM Corporation will conduct a Pre-Bid Conference on 08 February 2011 at 10:00 AM for Schedule I and at 2:00 PM for Schedule II, at the 6th Floor, Banderan Building, 6796 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 21 February 2011, at 11:00 AM, for Schedule I and at 2:00 PM for Schedule II. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Instruction to Bidders (ITB) Clause 18.

7. Bid opening shall be on 21 February 2011, at 10:15 AM for Schedule I and at 2:15 PM for Schedule II, at the 6th Floor, Banderan Building, 6796 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The PSALM Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. This Invitation to Bid supersedes PSALM's earlier Invitation to this entitled "Supply and Delivery of Coal to PSALM Corporation for CY 2011" published on 26 January 2011 in a newspaper of general circulation.

10. Any inquiry regarding the above Invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned:

(Sgd.) MIRIAM ANN G. SAPIG-AYAO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) - Fuel
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
Address: 6th Floor, Banderan Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: 2028839440
e-mail: mgsapig@psalm.gov.ph
PSALM website: www.psalm.gov.ph

(PEP - Jan. 31, 2011)

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of Philippine Pesos Five Million Four Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Only (PhP 5,455,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to eligible contractors for the contract to the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture under the School Food Education Assistance for Typhoon Affected Schools (SAFE) Project of DepED, as follows:

Item No.	Region	Division	Total	Number of Seats Required (Unit)	Unit Price	Total Price
1	CAR	Abra	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
2	I	Ilocos Norte	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
3	II	Cagayan	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
4	III	Aurora	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
5	IV-B	Palawan	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
6	V	Albay	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
7	VI	Iloilo	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
8	VII	Cebu	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
9	VIII	Leyte	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
10	IX	Zamboanga del Sur	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
11	X	Misamis Oriental	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
12	XI	Davao del Sur	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
13	XII	South Cotabato	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
14	CARAGA	Surigao del Sur	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
15	NCR	Manila	30	1,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
Total			450	15,000	₱ 1,000.00	₱ 15,000,000.00

Sole User Contract Implementing Unit: Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division

Source of Funds: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Grant Agreement No. 492-K-018 dated 30 September 2010 (nationally executed) - 4th of 4th wave

Government of the Philippine through General Appropriations Act authorizing appropriations FY 2011

Contract Period: 45 calendar days from receipt of NTP

Delivery Site: Schools in various mentioned Regions

The Department of Education Central Office, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for above mentioned goods. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC as indicated hereof shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. Bidders should bid for all items or as a lot; otherwise, the bid for such lot shall be rejected. Bidder reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Prospective bidders must have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project, the value of which, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the total ABC as bid.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

The post-qualification, bidding will be conducted using the non-discretionary pass/fail criterion, evaluation and post-qualification procedures specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (R.A.) 9184.

Activities	Approved Date	Time
Publication and Posting of Invitation to Bid	Friday, January 28, 2011	Philippine Standard Time (PST)
Pre-Bid Conference	Monday, February 7, 2011	10:00 AM
Submission and Opening of Bids	Monday, February 21, 2011	10:00 AM

The Bidding Documents may be requested in person at the DepED – Procurement Section, Room 608, 6th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City upon accomplishing a bidder's information sheet and payment in cash of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Philippine Pesos Seven Thousand and Five Hundred (PhP 7,500.00) to the DepED Cashier. Only Bidders that purchased the Bidding Documents will be allowed to submit bids.

Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to order or download the electronic copy of the Bidding Documents from the PhilGEPS website (www.philgeps.gov.ph) there to be included in the Document Request List (DRL) for free. The Bidding Document(s) may be viewed also at the address stated above.

DepED reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare failure of bidding, not award the contract or annul the bidding process without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ADMIRADO G. IGNAS**
Chief Administrative Officer and
BAC Vice-Chairperson

(PEP January 31, 2011)

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COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

RULES ON THE CONDUCT OF AND REPORTING IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH 13, 2011 SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN.

BRILLANTES, Sixto, Jr. S. — Chairman
SARMIENTO, Rene V. — Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T. — Commissioner
TAGLE, Lucenito N. — Commissioner
VELASCO, Armando C. — Commissioner
YUSOPH, Elias R. — Commissioner
LARRAZABAL, Gregorio Y. — Commissioner

PROMULGATED: January 26, 2011

RESOLUTION No. 9133

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections (Commission) commands the preservation of peace, law and order within the Century Election Code, and other laws for the holding of fair, honest, orderly and intelligent elections and for enforcement and implementation in connection with the March 13, 2011 Special Election for Member, House of Representatives, Second Legislative District of the Province of Cagayan;

SECTION 1. Prohibited Acts. – It shall be unlawful for any person, including owners and occupants of lands and establishments in Aparri, Buguey, Camalaniugan, Gattaran, Lal-lo, Penablanca, Solana, Tuao and Tuguegarao, to sell, furnish, offer, buy, serve, or take intoxicating liquor:

SEC. 2. Prohibition Period. – The liquor ban shall be in force and effect on March 10, 2011, the day before the election, and on March 13, 2011, the day of the election;

SEC. 3. Exemption. – Hotels and other establishments duly certified by the Department of Tourism as tourist centers and exempted from the prohibition of selling or serving liquor during the period mentioned in the preceding section: PROVIDED, that the certified establishments shall inform the Commission, as provided for in Section 4 below, upon receiving their liquor supplies;

Foreign tourists taking intoxicating liquor in said authorized hotels or establishments are exempted from this prohibition;

SEC. 4. Where to apply for one (1) day liquor exemption. – Applications for exemption together with supporting documents, shall be filed with, and duly acted upon by the Provincial Election Supervisor, with respect to establishments located in the municipalities within the second legislative district of the province of Cagayan;

SEC. 5. Conditions for granted exemptions. – Exemption may be granted only upon compliance and submission of the following:

a. The request/application/application for exemption must be under oath and must contain a statement that the applicant/establishment concerned have not been convicted by an election offender;

b. Certification by the Department of Tourism that the hotel cited for the corresponding hotel or establishment is duly accredited and be entitled to the issuance of a license to operate as tourist center;

c. The certification by the Department of Tourism to prove that the hotel/tourist center/establishment is currently licensed to be in business; and

d. Certification by the Department of Tourism to prove that the hotel/tourist center/establishment has paid the required taxes and fees imposed by the government on any of its operations or transactions.

SEC. 6. Revocation of exemption. – The exemption granted may be revoked or set aside by the Commission upon petition of any interested party or motu proprio, among others, for the violation of any of the conditions set forth in the preceding section, or for the misrepresentation in the application, or conviction of a violation of any election law, rule or regulation;

SEC. 7. Who shall implement. – The officers concerned of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Regional Election Directors (REDs), local Regional Election Directors (LEDs), Provincial Election Supervisors (PESs), and City/Municipal Election Officers (CESOs/MESOs) shall implement the provisions of this Resolution;

SEC. 8. Penalty. – Any violation of the provisions of this Resolution shall, considered with Section 261 and 262 of the Omnibus Election Code, constitute an election offense and shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years, disqualification and cancellation of his/her candidacy;

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 10. Dissemination. – The Information and Information Department shall cause the immediate dissemination of this Resolution through the fastest means available to the Department of Tourism, Association of Broadcasters, Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors, City/Municipal Election Officers, Commission on Filipino Overseas, Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Accredited Citizens' Arms of the Commission.

SO ORDERED.

SIXTO S. BRILLANTES, JR.
Chairman

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

LUCENITO N. TAGLE
Commissioner

ARMANDO C. VELASCO
Commissioner

ELIAS R. YUSOPH
Commissioner

GREGORIO Y. LARRAZABAL
Commissioner

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ELECTION CAMPAIGN, PROPAGANDA, CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH 13, 2011 SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN.

BRILLANTES, Sixto, Jr. S. — Chairman
SARMIENTO, Rene V. — Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T. — Commissioner
TAGLE, Lucenito N. — Commissioner
VELASCO, Armando C. — Commissioner
YUSOPH, Elias R. — Commissioner
LARRAZABAL, Gregorio Y. — Commissioner

PROMULGATED: January 26, 2011

RESOLUTION NO. 9132

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9006 provides for the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections through fair election practices;

WHEREAS, such Act allows the publication or dissemination through mass media, or other mass media, or any person making use of the mass media for the purpose of any election campaign or partisan political activity to support or oppose any political party, candidate or political party;

WHEREAS, Section 6 of such Act directs the Commission on Elections to supervise the use and enjoyment of mass media and television facilities made available by the operators of such facilities to candidates for public office, political parties and party-list groups, and to prescribe such rules and regulations to make sure their equitable and effective use;

WHEREAS, Section 11 of the same Act requires the Commission to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 9006, RA 7166, and other related laws **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to promulgate the following rules and regulations governing election campaign, propaganda, contributions and expenditures in connection with the March 13, 2011 Special Elections for Member, House of Representatives, Second Legislative District, Province of Cagayan:

SECTION 1. Definitions – As used in this Resolution:

1. The term "election campaign" or "partisan political activity" refers to any act designed to promote the election, nomination or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office which shall include any of the following:
   a. Forming organizations, associations, clubs, committees or other groups of persons for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign for or against a candidate;
   b. Holding political caucuses, conferences, meetings, rallies, parades or other similar assemblies for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign or propaganda for or against a candidate;
   c. Making speeches, announcements or commentaries, including commentaries for or against the election of any candidate to public office;
   d. Publishing or distributing campaign literature or materials designed to support or oppose the election of any candidate; and
   e. Directly or indirectly soliciting votes, pledges or support for or against any candidate.
2. The term "candidate" refers to any person aspiring for or seeking an elective public office who has filed his certificate of candidacy and who has taken the necessary action to undertake a campaign or propaganda for his candidacy after the filing of the certificate of candidacy but prior to the start of the campaign period for which he is a candidate and later elected to public office upon the start of the aforesaid campaign period.
3. The term "political advertisement" refers to any radio broadcast, published, printed or written matter which contains reasons in support of the election of a candidate or a segment thereof, or which contains an appeal to the people, by the use of reasons or arguments, to vote for or against a candidate or a public office. It includes radio, political advertisements or time, letter to the editor, boosters, boosters, boosters

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC NEWS/ISSUES AND RELEASES, DISBURSEMENT AND EXPENDITURES OF PUBLIC FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH 12, 2011 SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN.

BRILLANTES, Jose, Jr. S. — Chairman
GUIANENG, Rene C. — Commissioner
TAGLE, Lucenito N. — Commissioner
VELASCO, Armando C. — Commissioner
PARAYNO, Gregorio R. — Commissioner
LARRAZABAL, Gregorio T. — Commissioner

PROMULGATED: January 26, 2011

RESOLUTION No. 9133

The Commission on Elections, pursuant to the power vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, has RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES to promulgate the following rules to implement the provisions of Section 261, subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w), (x), (y), (z), (aa), (bb), (cc), (dd), (ee), (ff), (gg), (hh), (ii), (jj), (kk), (ll), (mm), (nn), (oo), (pp), (qq), (rr), (ss), (tt), (uu), (vv), (ww), (xx), (yy), (zz), (aaa), (bbb), (ccc), (ddd), (eee), (fff), (ggg), (hhh), (iii), (jjj), (kkk), (lll), (mmm), (nnn), (ooo), (ppp), (qqq), (rrr), (sss), (ttt), (uuu), (vvv), (www), (xxx), (yyy), (zzz), (aaaa), (bbbb), (cccc), (dddd), (eeee), (ffff), (gggg), (hhhh), (iiii), (jjjj), (kkkk), (llll), (mmmm), (nnnn), (oooo), (pppp), (qqqq), (rrrr), (ssss), (tttt), (uuuu), (vvvv), (wwww), (xxxx), (yyyy), (zzzz), (aaaaa), (bbbbb), (ccccc), (ddddd), (eeeee), (fffff), 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BUSINESS

BSP shrugs off fears over surge in 'hot money'

Level not yet 'worrisome,' according to officials

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has shrugged off concerns over the continued surge in the inflow of foreign "hot money," saying that while the increase is unprecedented, it is still far from worrisome levels.

"The increase is not at all alarming. It is more; there the peso could have been very volatile, which is not the case," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said Friday.

Data from the central bank showed that in 2010, net inflow of foreign portfolio investments hit $4.6 billion, rising by nearly 12 times the $366 million recorded the previous year.

And the flow continues with net inflow reaching $236.14 million in the first two weeks of January, up 87 percent from the $147.68 million recorded in the same period last year.

Economists have partly attributed the unexpected surge to foreign hot money in the Philippines and to other emerging Asian markets in the rising liquidity in the global economy. They also cited the bullish outlook on emerging Asia and the lackluster growth projection for industrialized countries, led by the United States.

The increase in global liquidity, meantime, is attributed largely to the prompt printing initiatives of the US government.

The Federal Reserve has been injecting huge amounts of money into the US economy through bond purchases.

Analysts said this while the intention of the US Fed is to accelerate growth of the US economy, a substantial portion of the liquidity is going to emerging markets, like the Philippines, in the form of portfolio investments.

Inflows of foreign capital are normally deemed favorable, as these could be helpful in increasing economic activity in a recipient country. However, concerns over flows in favor of hot money have been raised given the huge volume and the tendency to short-term nature of these funds.

Economists added that the huge inflows that are invested in easy-to-withdraw instruments, such as equities, do not really create jobs and do create the local economy to appreciate.

Currency appreciation is harmful to exporters, economists said, since it makes their goods more expensive in dollar terms and thus less competitive.

The BSP said, however, that while the peso appreciated against the US dollar last year, the increase recorded at around 5 percent, was benign.

REBUILDING SAN JUAN
Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista and Manila Water president Gerry C. Ablaza Jr. laid the blueprints and plans for the San Juan reservoir in a ceremonial groundbreaking at the site of the new reservoir. Both leaders emphasized the value of a Public-Private Partnership and how cooperation and mutual support can bring better service to people.

Better logistics management to boost country's competitiveness

By Abigail L. Ho

ENHANCING THE logistics capabilities of local firms can boost the country's competitiveness, as costs go down and transport and warehouse activities become more efficient.

According to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, jacking up the productivity and competitiveness of local firms would enhance the country's overall competitiveness, resulting in the inflow of more foreign investments.

One way to achieve better competitiveness and productivity of local firms, the group said, was through proper training for logistics practitioners.

This prompted PCCI to partner with other industry groups and the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) for the rollout of the certified Philippine Logistics Master (CPLM) program.

The CPLM is a certification program for logistics personnel that is designed to upgrade local logistics practices.

It will explore the various components of supply chain management and logistics systems, from forecasting to product manufacturing to transportation and delivery.

PCCI logistics committee co-chair Erich Lingad said the Philippines needed such a program if it wanted to keep pace with other countries and boost its competitiveness and productivity.

"We're attacking the grassroots by professionalizing the logistics sector, we hope to get small wins, by way of savings and efficiency, that will have a bigger impact on the country as a whole," said Arnold Gamboa of the Supply Chain Management Association of the Philippines.

Jetro logistics management expert Mitsuhiro Sakai said Thailand started implementing a similar program three years ago, and the country was now reaping its benefits.

Drilling program for Kingking starts

By Rica T. Dulunan

ST. AUGUSTINE Gold and Copper Ltd. (formerly Basin Gold Ltd.) is starting a drilling program at its Kingking copper-gold project in Pantukan, Compostela Valley, in preparation for a feasibility study.

"Drill rigs have arrived and some more are on the way. Those that have arrived will be positioned just drilling programs as soon as security coverage is in place," said Gerardo Calalang, president of Nationwide Development Corp. (Nadecor), in a text message.

Nadecor, the chair owner and operator of the Kingking project, has partnered with the St. Augustine.

Drilling is planned to start the week with resource, geotechnical and geohydrology drill holes. Information gathered from these will support the so-called Preliminary Economic Assessment.

The study is scheduled for publication in the fourth quarter of 2011, the Toronto-listed company said in a statement posted on its website.

Heavy equipment has been rented from Manuel Mercado, an equipment representative in Mindanao, for repair of the access road to the Kingking project, according to the statement.

The access road has been repaired and rehabilitation of broken drill roads for drill rigs to access new drilling locations has begun, St. Augustine said.

Mobilization of two core drilling rigs to the Kingking project site by the drilling contractor, DrillCorp., has begun, according to St. Augustine.

Last year, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau approved the work program for Kingking.

Nadecor, which has taken over operational duties from publicly listed Benguet Corp., said the approved investment could increase fivefold with the completion of the Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility.

ECCP members cut costs with new service

ALMOST 700 members of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines expect to generate savings on communications costs by using a service that will also allow them to be more visible to potential business and suppliers.

The service, dubbed "Info Talk Directory," enables users to place and receive calls via the Internet, thus bypassing telephone systems and the corresponding international or domestic long-distance call charges.

Users, on ECCP's official website, can also promote their products and services using an easy-to-access directory service that may include a company profile, pictures and search tags that will make it easier for companies to be found via the Internet.

"The new service will allow our members and other interested companies to cut communication costs so their operations, have better customer relationship management and become more competitive in their respective industries," ECCP executive vice president Henry Schumacher said.

"We have always advocated and promoted Philippine companies in Europe and in other parts of the world through trade fairs, business missions, and road shows. With Info Talk Directory, they can position and promote themselves better to their target markets," he added.

The communications tool is powered by InterOne Asia, an end-to-end voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) solutions provider. Apart from ECCP, the company also has China Banking Corp. as one of its local clients.

InterOne Asia president and chief executive Cyril Sucke en, envisaged other industry and business groups to also try the Web Talk Directory service, as they would allow their members to better interact with both potential clients and suppliers, even those located in other continents.

Abigail L. Ho

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quintos-Espino

'Green loan' anyone?

By Yvonne S. Santiago

PHILIPLED's Rico Gonzales

BY NOW, most companies must have already realized that by "going green," they just don't help conserve electricity, reduce their carbon footprint and inevitably, save Mother Earth.

Using energy efficient solutions would also do wonders to their bottomline as these could help slash operating costs and other environment-related expenses in the long run.

But while the benefits of "going green" is obvious, the fact also remains that being energy efficient sometimes is steep price.

Retrofitting a whole building or even just a section is due to make it energy efficient can be a costly endeavor. There is a need to look at carbon emissions in the area, energy usage, design of the building, as well as lighting, circulation and airconditioning, among others.

Replacing lighting fixtures alone, say in a hotel, may already run up to millions of pesos in a "long-term investment" that may be harder to swallow for some.

Sooner or later, however, investing in intelligent lighting solutions may already become a necessity rather than a choice, according to Rico Gonzales, chief executive officer of Philips Electronics and Lighting Inc.

"People would like to upgrade to lighting because of the higher cost of electricity. People would have no choice but to find energy efficient solutions," Gonzales says on the sidelines of Philips' 50th anniversary celebration held recently.

Gonzales admits that the cost of replacing all the bulbs and lighting solutions with energy efficient ones can be "very huge. We talk in billions." Most companies, he adds, could not afford totally new installations.

'Green loans'

Thus, to help different establishments in their efforts to go green, Gonzales shares

(SEE GREEN LOANS | B3-1)

PHILIPS kicks off its 50th anniversary with a grand showcase that includes a new line of retail, stylish and functional lighting fixtures dubbed "Consumer Luminaires."

MAPping a culture of integrity

MAPPING THE FUTURE
Fulino A. Padojinog, Jr.

CIRC gathering is an international, interdisciplinary inner faith, and public, private, and civil society leaders.

I gratefully appreciate the three successful months of the 61 previous presidents in bringing the organization at the premier Management Association of the Philippines. I would like to thank the members of the Management Association of the Philippines as well as the 2011 MAP Board of Governors for choosing me as President, the first architect/Urban Planner to lead this premier management organization of CEOs, top executives, business and civic leaders. Let us also thank and recognize the MAP Secretariat headed by Arnold Salvador. I would want to thank my family, my wife Wilma, my children, Karina, Marina and Philip, who are architects, planners, designers, engineers, consultants and clients who have helped me build Palafox Associates to what it is today.

I would like to thank Jaime Elize Tan for his effective leadership and once again the members of the 2010 MAP Board of Governors for their steadfast dedication and valuable contributions in the goals and objectives of MAP during the challenging year.

I have been part of four previous MAP Boards—under Mon Elizondi in 2002, Evelyn Singson in 2006, Albert del Rosario in 2007, and Elise Tan in 2010. I observed and benefited from their different but various leadership and management skills. I am humbled to serve, manage and lead this prestigious organization.

The Philippines is a country with unbridled high development potentials.

Let us revisit the high development potentials of our country and its beautiful scenic and wonders of nature. We are the first in the world in terms of marine biodiversity and also considered first in having the best mangroves and nature. I am now told that we are the first in BPOs, having just surpassed India, third in the league considered as the best country preparing to war in chess league wise behind the long standing Kuwait, and Dubai making proclamations. We are fourth in gold, fifth in all mineral resources and No. 12 in human resources. The Filipino superwomen are the predominant choice of kings, queens, rulers, presidents, prime ministers, developers, sports, hospitals, and schools, among many other international employers.

Let us focus on the Philippines' additional competitive advantages—its strategic location, its economic growth, its sustainability and fixed Government policies.

Let us focus on the Philippines' new international faith in the Asia Pacific region of Spanish Europe for 350 years, with trade between Spain and the Philippines, the Manila-Acapulco trade and Manila-Shanghai-Acapulco trade routes for almost 350 years, then the Asia Pacific faith of the investments for 100 years, with trade between the United States and the Philippines, the rest of Asia. The center of trade and commerce started in the Mediterranean Sea, in the 21st century to this day. We enjoy the wealth of these influences imbued into our heritage, culture as well as architecture. The center of trade and commerce started in the Mediterranean Sea, then until the last century the Atlantic Ocean, the 21st Century will be Pacific Century or the Asian Pacific Century. The Philippines is right in the strategic center of the Asia Pacific.

Our global competitiveness continued during the 1920s to the 1950s, where we ranked second in Asia after Japan. However, at present, we lag behind our Asian neighbors and it is time to refocus on the issues at hand to plan for a better future.

Our human resources is more than 400 times the size of Singapore in terms of total land area. It is almost 250 times the size of Hong Kong, about 6 times the size of Taiwan and 2 times bigger than South Korea. In fact, Singapore—all 71,000 hectares of its land—can fit into our 90,000 hectare Laguna Lake. We can be a great globally competitive 400 Singapores, 250 Hong Kongs, 6 Taiwans, 2 South Koreas—all 267 billionth of human and land resources. This should encourage us to make the most of our strength on the land, our people, and our natural resources with which the Philippines has been gifted by God.

Therefore, as a nation, we must work twice as hard to achieve our goals. We must strive to reach the global benchmarks to be worthy of the respect we must have for ourselves as well as from others.

MAP has adopted "MAPping a Culture of Integrity" as its theme for 2011. This encompasses dominant matters of progress, managing for change and inspiring business excellence and environmental sustainability. Seven shortcut themes that were put forward by the 2011 Board of Governors were as follows:

1. Addressing the Challenges of Corruption, Criminality and Climate Change

2. Building a Nation With Anti-Corruption

3. Country Above Self

4. Creative Leadership: Management for Change

5. Social Responsibility: The Right Push to Progress

6. Inspiring Business Sustainability

7. Management Excellence for a Better Nation

8. Managing in Arduous times of Energy for Our Economy

9. MAPping the Right Path to Progress

10. Moving the Nation Forward with Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance

11. Vision Beyond the Present

The above recommended themes evolved into our 2011 theme of "MAPping a Culture of Integrity" which the whole 2011 MAP Board unanimously approved.

As members of IBBE we must

steadily adhere to the highest ethical standards, good governance principles and management excellence, while progressively embracing the growing complexity of managing businesses in an ever challenging environment.

Our new values in the IBBE remind us that integrity rests solely entails honest, transparency and accountability, but the development of a culture of the real, and compassion of the man drives takes into consideration to work efficiently as a whole.

This year, we hope to address the challenges of corruption, criminality and climate change.

Corruption, as I learned from the seminars, comes from two Latin words "con" which means heart and "rupere" which means break. So we seem to live in a society of hearts without hearts.

The competitiveness of our country continues to decline, preventing us from addressing poverty, housing, public health, transportation, traffic, climate change and the environment, among others.

MAP supports the Coalition Against Corruption. We also fully support the integrity initiative of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the Makati Business Club (MBC), the Philippine Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (PCCP), and the American Chamber of Commerce (Am Cham). Three-hundred plus companies have already signed up for a pledge of the Integrity Initiative to commit to ensure integrity and accountability in business. MAP members are strongly urged to commit to ethical business practices and good governance. We should be exemplary in the corporate, our personal and family lives.

MAP members must lead by example in the fight against corruption by managing their business ethically and with integrity, paying the right taxes, taking care of their stakeholders in an ethical manner, not tolerating bribery, and not just talking about corruption but also reporting and reporting it.

For a business perspective, we encourage you to read the Memorandum of Understanding by the American Chamber of Commerce and other foreign chambers, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the International News Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc. (PAMRI).

In this century MAP looks toward creative and new models. We continue to advocate good governance, management excellence, corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability. Let us forge various communities in the society for this century, which are synchronous to the Harvard Graduate School of Design considered as the "Becoming": Reuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Replace, Reorganize, Redevelop, Repair, Rejuvenate, and Revitalize. Hopefully I would like MAP to carry out actions that are immediately possible. For a renaissance to happen, management should be open to new ideals that are creative and artistic, progressive and effective, short-term as well as long-term and visionary that must follow this next age of corporate change.

The IBBE Communications Committee is mandated to review all external communications and to develop a social media platform (solutions, EMSs, annual conferences, MAP Executive Academy) to project a more active and relevant management organization and activities, or give a higher profile to its members.

The Board has approved the Communications Plan done by the Communications Committee where goal will be to project MAP as the premier association of top management executives.

The plan will include the following, among others:

1. Make the monthly EMSs (general membership meeting) more vital more interesting and engaging for:

1.1. Inviting speakers others members experience.

1.2. Encouraging government officials to actively participate in tackling relevant national issues, utilizing the EMSs as the forum venue to share his/her views on the subject at hand.

1.3. Requesting a television network or the media to provide the moderator for the EMSs discussion of the two axles of a specific management issue preferred by MAP members.

1.4. Requesting the media to feature the CEBM discussion.

2. From the MAP columns ("MAPping the Future" in the business mirror; Monday "MAP Insights" in Businessworld every Tuesday and "MAP Breakfast of the Week" in Businessworld every Monday) on management issues.

In order to propagate best management practices, the Board has agreed to re-inaugurate the MAP Speakers Bureau.

The Map Speakers Bureau provides the venue for members to share their wisdom and expertise with their fellow MAP members and also with other business or professional organizations, schools, students, and other management practitioners and educators.

We continue MAP's Thrusts for 2011 with three pillars as follows:

MEMBER BENEFITS
ADVOCACIES FOR MAP'S SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE
Good Governance
Corporate Social Responsibility
Environmental Sustainability
PROGRAMS

MAP intends to showcase in its monthly GMM's selected new and renewed expertise and integrity to talk about their professionals, personal and corporate advocacies and initiatives.

The MAP Executive Academy will continue to serve as the umbrella brand for all educational activities for MAP members as well as the venue for continuing education and sharing of the latest technologies and information of management and leadership.

We have not increased the dues this year but we will see to it that members' benefits will be enhanced. Other initiatives will be announced as well via electronic circulars.

MAP will continue to be more relevant, responsive with challenges of a rapidly changing environment here and elsewhere in the world.

MAP's programs for management excellence include the following among others:

1. the 9th Annual MAP International CEO Conference to be held on September 13, 2011 with the Working Theme: "Future Trends: Business, Leadership in a New Convergent World"

2. the Search for "Manager (and) Man of the Year for 2011"

3. the MAP's Teachers Training Program-Management Educators' Workshops (MEW) and Seminars for Management Educators (SME) in partnership with Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

4. the 2nd MAP CSR Leadership Challenge which aims to promote CSR as important and integral part of good management practice, inspire MAP members and other top executives to improve their practice and set the bar for the practice of CSR in the country and recognize companies that exemplify what it means to be a true corporate citizen through their CSR programs.

MAP continues to be a member of the AAMO, the Asian Association of Management Organizations, which is the umbrella association of management organizations in the Asia Pacific to share case study and leverage resources to achieve their respective missions. Countries represented in AAMO includes the Philippines, China, India, Australia, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Qatar, among others to name a few.

We have various committees to serve management excellence, environment, infrastructure, ICT, agribusiness, trade and industry, CSR, food power and other committees.

The National Issues Committee will have special task forces to be more proactive in putting forward reforms, instead of just reacting to issues or recommendations.

I call upon each and every one of you to please support the Board's efforts to unite and participate in the various activities of MAP this year. I am very confident that with our very strong, highly qualified leadership, Elizabeth "Beth" Yu Lee, COO of Universal Motors Corp. and president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Camap), as vice president; Eduardo "Ed" T. Francisco, president and CEO of RDO Equitant and Investment Corp., as treasurer; Pacito "Tito" E. Funk, co-chair of Philippine Coffee Board Inc., as secretary.

We also have the following governors: Francisco "Paco" M. del Rosario Jr., president and CEO of Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP); Lydia E. Sarmiento, advisory board member of League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) and consultant of CSR Dept. of Ayala Corp.; Francisco "Frankie" C. Diamond Jr., president of its namesake Solidarity in Asia (DIA) and former president of San Miguel Corp.; Eugenio "Geng" R. Nanucio, president of Cerf Group; Wee Nam Lance and Antonio G. Velasquez, president and general manager of GM Philippines Inc.

Their forward efforts, along with those of the past officers and Board, push us beyond many hops. We have been preparing for a Philippines able to handle seemingly insurmountable negativity. It is now time to take action. If we put all our minds and hearts to the task, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

Finally, I would like to thank the MAP general membership and the 2011 Board of Governors for affording me the rare honor and privilege of serving as MAP President for this year.

This would pose another challenge for me and our colleagues in the government sector, the business community, civil society non-government organizations, interfaith groups, various political actors, and all sectors of society to be more active in the vocational steps of the various responsibilities called upon us.

Confidently, we look to what the prize for us to achieve by participation in repairing, to what the prize for us to achieve by participation in repairing, to what the prize for us to achieve by participation in repairing our country. While MAP will have its challenges, I look forward to forging a bond among the business, the public, and the private sectors to realize the goals of our country's great development potentials.

Again, one must look to our past only to modernize the future for the betterment of society.

"Some men see things as they are and say 'why?' I dream things that never were and say 'Why not?'" —late Robert Francis Kennedy.

"Make no little plans: they have no magic to stir men's blood. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die" —Daniel Hudson Burnham

God Bless MAP! Mabuhay Philippines!

(Inaugural address delivered recently by the incumbent president of the Management Association of the Philippines. Arch. Padojinog is Principal & Senior Urban Planner/President of Palafox Associates. Feedback at mapping@philippinedaily.com. For previous articles, please visit <mapping.ph/>.)

'Green loan' anyone?

Philippine Daily Inquirer

that Philips has begun partnering with banks, local private and government entities. By doing so, Philips helps consumers overcome the much needed financial complexities of retrofitting activities.

"We're true lighting financing. We're working with banks for providing green loans for companies," he says. Green loans are those that are being provided for companies that would want to retrofit their buildings and replace certain features in favor of the more energy efficient ones.

"For example, here's a company, we do our audit. We say you can save 20 percent (if you replace your lighting fixtures), but the entire project is 92 million. Then the company says, I don't have 92 million, but I want to do it now. What we do is our audit with a bank for a tie up and we make that 92 million available," Gonzales explains.

He further says a company could use the data from the energy audit that Philips will conduct and that will be certified by a third party as accurate as a basis for applying for the retrofitting activities will yield as much as 10 percent savings. That savings will then be used to pay off the loan over the next several years, and eventually, will redound into lower operational efficiencies in the long run.

A lot of multinational companies operating in the Philippines, he adds, have already expressed interest in the project because of the relatively shorter payback period of about one to three years, depending on how big the retrofitting will be.

Aside from local and multinational firms, Philips is also in talks with a number of local governments.

"Certain LGUs are more into two things: Energy saving in street and outdoor lighting and second, on beautification to their cities. So we would like to go to them," Gonzales explains, adding that lighting plays a role in city beautification.

"One of the things that we can share with you is (what we did) in Baguio. The Baguio City Hall (there) was one of the first to (use) CFLs in the center of the city; it has a nice location there, it was dimly lit, but with Mayor Mauricio (Domogan)'s effort and his people, they actually got us to do the lighting there," Gonzales says.

Philips, he adds, used LED (light emitting diodes) for the city hall, helping the local government in the activities of the city through the night with better lighting.

LED benefits

A LED bulb may be one of the most sustainable bulbs in the market today thanks to less energy consumption, the quality of light and its long life—even if it costs as much as 10 times a conventional lighting solution. An ordinary incandescent lights—which Philips has stopped selling—is 100 watts while LED, which produces the same amount of light, consumes only 10 to 15 watts.

LED solutions would also be considered as part of the "green" products since they are mostly lead- and mercury-free.

PHILIPS shows how the Master LedLuker—an advanced alternative to the 40-watt linear fluorescent lamp that is designed for multiple general lighting in offices, parking lots, warehouses, supermarkets/shops and industrial settings.

Gonzales further notes that Philips' new LED bulbs can last for a staggering 50,000 hours, compared to other brands' LED bulbs, which usually have a life span of about 2,000 hours. This allows a household or a building owner to keep using the same bulb for a number of years.

What makes a Filipino leader?

By Emerald D. Ita
Contributor

IN ANY organization, one of the most fundamental relationships is the connection between the leader and the followers. That unit relay on many forms at several levels, and the understanding of this relationship is essential to any organization. A healthy bond can produce high efficiencies and productivity while a rocky connection can be detrimental to organizational success.

Various researches have been done to study this affiliation in the Pinoy, resulting to a multitude of theories that sought to explain the factors and facets that aim to strengthen this relationship. In the Philippines, we are slowly catching up in researching this aspect of organizational life, and for by far, we are developing theories on transformership of the Pinoy leader.

What do Pinoys want in a leader?

Felonia Illanil conducted one of the few local studies that delved into examining Filipinos' concept of leadership. She surveyed 1,341 Filipino employees across job levels (clerical, managerial and managerial) and profession to gather characteristics used to describe the ideal Filipino boss, how the presence of these qualities impact on their leader-follower relationship and eventually influence the employee's performance at work.

Characteristics of the ideal Pinoy leader

The major findings of the study outlined the desired and ideal characteristics of the Filipino leader—one who is mainly person-focused and group-centered, while also knowledgeable on the job. Employees prefer a leader who is easy to talk to, one who listens with understanding and compassion, and someone who takes care of the employees' personal and professional welfare; the apt term for this is the connection is being conducive.

If the boss is nurturing, employees will most likely feel more affection and warmth toward this superior. The kudos by doing so is then able to bring people to work together as a team and get more positive results for the organization.

Also, employees prefer a leader who has the indispensable manners as the competence to lead partnered with interpersonal skills. It is not just about having the technical know-how but more of the capacity to share knowledge and skills that will move employees toward personal and professional growth.

Bosses who are perceived as "moody, rational, and demanding" on the other hand, are not desired by the Filipino workforce. Subordinates have the tendency to timidly follow this type of leader because of the position, but will do so with anger and distrust. This type of leadership can be destructive and ineffectual for the organization and the team.

Impact on performance

Now, what do these characteristics mean in terms of job performance? The study shows that having a leader who exhibits the above ideal characteristics will most likely have employees who are willing to do more work responsibilities provided that the leader takes time to engage in positive interactions with them.

Constant leader-follower interaction produces affection, professional respect and loyalty to the boss. The employees might even go beyond the call of duty to support other employees and engage in behaviors that will promote the welfare of the organization. They can be more than willing to help others who have been absent, or to adjust work schedules to accommodate other employees' requests for time off.

In terms of retention, employees who have good interpersonal working relationship with their bosses tend to stay longer with the company. Some would even follow their bosses to other organizations if the leader decides to leave the current company.

Given the findings of this study, Pinoy leaders may find it important to know how they are perceived by their team and exert effort to develop characteristics that enhance positive working relationships with their followers. Keeping in mind that a leader who is out bossy and arrogant, but a willing mentor who is competent, approachable and respectful locally fosters, bring out the best in the Pinoy employees.

(The author is a graduate student in Industrial Organizational Psychology program of the Ateneo de Manila University. The article is based on the dissertation of Felonia Illanil, a PhD candidate in Social-Organizational Psychology in the same University. e-mail: or ateneocredit@ateneo.edu.ph or call us at 4266063/4266202.)

WORKPLACE WISDOM

> Employees prefer a leader who is easy to talk to, listens to others, and knows what to do

Meralco sponsors mission

THE STA. CECILIA Parish of Moly. San Mateo, Rizal, was the beneficiary of a recent dental and medical mission held by the Meralco Employees Fund for Charity Inc., (MEFI).

The group, alongside medical volunteers headed by Dr. Ramon S. Manalang, was able to reach more than 500 residents of the community.

Fr. Rey Cruzyne, the parish priest, welcomed the MEFI team members and thanked them for making time to visit the area and supervise the donation of drugs and vitamins as well as basic medical and dental services.

Meralco chair Ramon Ang said the group was organized in 1974 "because of the Meralco employees' desire to share their blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters."

MEFI conducts regular dental and medical missions in depressed communities within Meralco's franchise area, donates medical equipment to charity institutions and government hospitals, and awards scholarship efforts during calamities.

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THE FAÇADE THAT LAUNCHED A THOUSAND BED SPACES

The history behind UST's National Cultural Treasures

By Magdalena Vesta Jose
Contributor

A HUNDRED years ago, the Dominicans were given a piece of property in an estate called Sulucan. It was an open field bounded by a railroad, a racetrack, a leprosarium, a prison, two churches, and an estero or creek. The name "Sulucan" is often related to the Tagalog word *sulok*, "corner." But in an early 17th-century dictionary, the word also connoted finding a space in another's home; hence, *sinupsulocan*, "living in somebody else's house." Sulucan could have arisen from the greeting *nasulok* of people encroaching for a corner on the fringes of industrializing 19th-century Manila.

What kind of community did the Dominicans get themselves into? The Sulucan property occupied land formerly maintained by the nuns of Santa Clara monastery for their upkeep. Throughout the 19th century, this was a land of orchards and meadows, whose contours would converge on four days of the year—the feast-days of Sampaloc where today's Earnshaw and Bustillos streets meet, dominated by the twin churches of Our Lady of Loreto and of the Venerable Third Order. The whole area was effusively under Franciscan influence. The nuns of Santa Clara, the friars at Loreto church and the members of the Third Order all adhered to the Rule of Saint Francis. The Franciscans operated a printing press nearby, in the Third Order's patrimonio. They also ran the Hospital of San Lazaro for lepers (for across town, whose buildings still stand in the compound of the Department of Health along Honorio Ejército (which was formerly called Bolumbayan, "out of town"). Just east of the leprosarium was a racetrack, whose crowds of observers and jockeys have morphed into the "colonies" of Old Tayuman. At the beginning of "End of Town" proper was the Bilibid Prison (site: Manila City Jail), whose denizens can still be espied from the Doroteo Jose station of the MRT. Across the prison was a cemetery, called alternatively Santa de Bilibid or Santa Escolástica, until recently. It was the site of another theater known to generations as Cinema 20's new location. Across the north-east end of the nuns' estate ran the Manila-Dagupan railroad; in inspect the early 20th century, nothing else appeared north of the track (that is, the area approaching Quezon City). As the train moved south, it crossed the aristocratic Puente de Sampaloc. A road from the Loreto Church's crossed the Estero and then the Cunico to Balic-Balic cemetery, the burial grounds of the parish. Along the way by the banks of the Estero, was an enclave known as Gardenia, where Japanese residents standing by red lanterns distinguished work or cultural them, depending on one's point of view (Magsa Lamberto drove the ladies out of town, and the Ongpin ng Sampaloc satisfied their residence).

The Santa Clara nuns disposed of their estate at an auction, and the land was parceled off into blocks in one of the city's earliest subdivisions. One of the buyers, Francisca Bustamante Bagtas, donated a sizable chunk of her property to the Dominican fathers just when they were looking for expansion space outside the Intramuros campus, which after 300 years was quite congested. The lot,

The history behind UST's National Cult

ABS-Cbn/Jobin Cantorio

The UST Main Building incorporated anti-sei
its Dominican builder learned from the last
earthquake in 1926, and followed rules laid d
the Laws of the Indies, that building blocks we
that one side of the street enjoyed some sh
of the day-wisdom passed on from ancient
around the Mediterranean. The Philippines
Iberian colonies of both Americas benefited fr
which also recalls yesterday's stories as w

"TO SOAR at Love" has Feb. 11 opening at the annual Taboan festival.

Taboan litfest in QC

UE to celebrate February Arts Month 2011

ural Treasures

MAIN Building

ric strategies that
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thrown into the sea off Manila by the invaders, and the same for his beatification is underway). On the 12th of the next month, on the 400th of that year's University Day, the Archbishop of Manila, Monsignor Michael O'Doherty, solemnly blessed and dedicated the new Central Seminary building. The seminarians moved into their new quarters by Christmas. What was often called a "chapel" in the University became the church of the Sacratissimi Rosarii Parish when it was canonically established on April 26, 1912.

By this time, Manila had fallen to Japanese forces, and the Dominican campus had been turned into an internment camp for Allied prisoners of war. It said that about 10,000 prisoners entered the corridors of the Main Building during the three years of Japanese Occupation. At the war's end in 1945, the Intramuros campus was heavily damaged. By a twist of fate, the University's oldest classrooms and most precious works of art (not to mention the miraculous image of Our Lady of La Naval) had already been transferred to the Sulpician campus since the beginning of the war, investing the school with a value of heritage treasures.

The statue of Miguel de Benavides, founder of UST, survived almost unscathed (save for a bullet hole in the back) and it was returned to its rightful place in the walled city to throw coins in front of the Main Building in 1948.

The remaining statue blocks of the ornate archway of the old building were taken down and numbered for re-assembly in 1952 in the entrance garden by the España gate. It is now known as the Arch of the Centuries. Today's freshmen routinely file through the Arch on the first week of classes, and on Graduation Day the "seniors" ceremonially march out of it.

Heritage

Nope! No such history, you might say. It's an honey and lovely, why can't we just leave it to the experts and the "old" people? Perhaps in addition to the Latin for, "yesterday," – hesjo, "O) teach." Why teach yesterday? Perhaps, if we are sensitive enough, yesterday's experiences become today's lessons for us. Thomas Aquinas could not have written his famous editions the works of his master, Albert the Great, who copied the works of Aristotle, who preserved the works of his teacher Plato.

Just like its earlier campus in Intramuros, the Sulpician lot is angled in such a way that its front faces the sunrise. That is, the rising sun crosses the front of the University much as it lit up the original façade 400 years ago. Both Intramuros and Sulpician campuses followed principles laid down by Philip II in the Laws of the Indies, that building blocks were to be aligned so that one side of the structure would be in shade at any time of the day. This, in turn, was sometimes passed on from ancient norms of living around the Mediterranean. The Philippines along with the Iberian colonies of Latin American benefited from such learning.

The University of Santo Tomas has slowly perceived the fragility of heritage. In spite of all it owns through, UST considers itself blessed in that so much of its history has been left intact. A Cultural Heritage Studies program was developed in 2005 for the Graduate School. Students are taught research and documentation, cultural mapping, heritage management and the like. They are given a hand at curating exhibits, restoring paintings, and researching documents in the Center for the Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics. This Center was established in 2003 as the University's outreach arm for heritage concerns around the country. The Antonio Hernando del Rosario UST Heritage Library was inaugurated in 2008 to contain the rare books previously kept in other departments of the University. Very recently, the venerable History Department was revived. The staff of the University's Museum and Archives have their hands full attending to researchers from all over the campus and to fans from all over the world. Effectively, UST heritage personnel are collaborating with the country's bishops in overseeing and promoting Philippine church cultural heritage. All of this housework culminated in 2010 when the National Museum declared the Main Building, the Central Seminary, the Arch of the Centuries and the campus' Open Spaces as National Cultural Treasures. Such a distinction is the highest national award for the Philippines' most important structures, artworks and artifacts. Understandably, many more items from the University's collections can be identified for similar recognition.

When UST settled in Sulipan, it was like a voice calling out in the wilderness. Today that voice is more connect, as the wilderness has taken many other forms. Despite the obvious push for heritage conservation, the historic frames in the district are slowly being replaced with modern condominiums, shipped by UST graduates. The shanty of the eyesore on campus are in continue to be replaced. What about the benefits that a university education is supposed to bring? Looking at a map, UST appears as a diamond in a lone desert by the Spaniards, the palaces, and the site of the vanished houses of glamour. What about the future now of this Have? Will students be encouraged to sell their principal residence in exchange for ideas for a specific freedom-fair?

Here lies the ever present challenge. All these monuments, artifacts, documents and traditions are yardsticks that remind us how much was done and point out what still has to be done. Researches' school has clearly moved its core-table in the life of the country and of the region. As UST falls prone to be sensitive to others' needs and to observe the Dominican motto: Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare—To Praise, To Bless, To Preach—may the University of Santo Tomas continue to grow as a true salmon, providing hospitable habitation for the highest aspirations of the people of God.

Reynaldo Ileto Jose is Archivist of the University of Santo Tomas and professor in the Cultural Heritage Studies program of the UST Graduate School.

A taste of France

Savor the goodness of fresh French food at CafeFrance today

By Hannah V. del Rosario

If you think you'll have to go to France to have a taste of authentic French food this romantic country has to offer, you're in for a nice surprise.

That's because at CAFEFRANCE customers can now enjoy fresh and healthy servings of authentic French breads and pastries, among many others, every single day. With 26 branches to and around the metro (with at least two more to open this year), having a gastronomic experience like no other is now easier than ever.

We provide our customers authentic French food that is reasonable in cost and high in quality," said Ms Divya Talwani, the company's Business Unit Head. "CAFEFRANCE offers a cozy comfortable environment where family, friends, and associates can meet and relish up with

Top Couture for Lunch and Dinner

CafeFrance's extensive food selection

each other."

CAFEFRANCE offers an array of delectable gourmet sandwiches, bread, and pastas that's sure to tantalize and satisfy the most discriminating tastebe. The freshly baked buttercroissants, baguettes and coffee beans are available.

"CAFEFRANCE uses only the finest and freshest ingredients, including French flour from Grand Moulins de Paris," said Ms Talwani. "You can count in CAFEFRANCE whether in breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snack. You'll get the same delicious, gourmet meals every single time."

While the breads and pastas are the bestsellers at CAFEFRANCE, they also get high recommendations for their freshly brewed coffee.

"We've also prepared a full year of new recipes and offerings for our customers, along with our excellent customer service, we promise to keep many things as relaxing for them as there's something for them to look, feel and to where they never look," Ms Talwani said.

According to her, they expect CAFEFRANCE to grow by some 10 percent this year as it continues to build the company's image and brand equity among its loyal customers. They said the public can expect CAFEFRANCE to become more visible in the coming months as it rolls out a marketing campaign to further share up its advantages.

She said: "CAFEFRANCE is not just a destination but a destination where excellent food and service is enjoyed."

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Ebarle's 'Hibla' opens at Renaissance Feb. 5

NO MATTER how we wonder or no matter how hot we feel, a line exists from the moment of our inception to the time of our demise. Some lines go straight, curving out a frame like from dust to end while others swerve and sway in the process.

Looking at the world in this perspective, one can wrap not a tangled mess of serpentine meanderings generation after generation. Artist Jane Arriola Ebarle resonates this paradigm with her latest exhibition of abstract works entitled "Hibla Series 2."

The artist's fourth solo exhibit in an exclusive of her parents to coincide the mother's of ethnicity. The artist's first solo exhibit, "Filipino Identity," held at the Hiram Green Gallery of the Philippine Heart Center in November 2008.

From tribal patterns, Ebarle grew to focus on Mariston prints in her second solo exhibit "Pinagmulan," which showcased an offshoot of her obsession to early ancient clothing of Santo Tomas Museum in July 2009.

Aside from the takeoff point, Ebarle's Mariston series required an overwhelming surge of creativity. "It was as if an unseen hand guided me all throughout," Ebarle said.

Five months after "Pinagmulan" came her show "Hibla," which was mounted on January 2010 at Renaissance Gallery. Resembling the intricacies of fiber and movement of the bodily and at the same time to subtle strength, Ebarle marks the canvas with intuitive bravado.

In her latest exhibit, "Hibla Series 2," which will be on display at Renaissance Gallery, Ebarle continue the same free-flowing spirit that guided her forebearers to build on her artistic identity. The artist transcends beyond semiotics and channels the visions locked deep in her psyche to produce her oeuvre.

The 11-piece collection subtitles busy Ebarle's wall of steadily Pith bold hues and dynamic tempo, the artist enters a visual trap of her own consciousness.

FROM TOP: "Hibla" 16, 13 and 15

In her work "Hibla" 16, Ebarle juxtaposes yellow ochre and ochre is a multitude of lines and patterns that shape the entire being of the work. Stranded on top of a black backdrop, the colors seem to leap from the canvas and get. Of Best while movement is eliminated by the contrasts from the flowing textures.

In "Hibla" 15, Ebarle explores her limit in use of color by adopting various shades into her canvas. By using neon green, orange, and three different shades of blue the artist lays out an avant-garde pattern, spontaneously creating a checkered medium.

The next canvas in cut through cool's cotton/neutral with sharp lines and striking hues.

With "Hibla" 16, the artist fi harmonic explosion hue dash structure with a blend of red, yellow ochre and black. Contrast with ripples of white, the work serves as a look into sweeping world full of intrigue and emotion at every turn.

Ebarle's pieces emulate the connection that the world has, between people and places, thoughts and feelings. The lines that cut through the artist's work represent the lines that have bridged generations, as well as seemingly distant existence together. This is where Ebarle sees her joy a place where in her bliss is at work.

"There are many occasions that the feeling of being in control with the lines is unexplainable to a level that really, really makes me enjoy painting," Ebarle shared.

Jane Arriola Ebarle is a mother, a person, an art educator and a visual artist. Through mastering may be her profession, art is her passion and it is through painting that she connects with her inner creativity.

"I am fascinated with abstractions because it tries to decontruct the mind from being structured, from being too logical. It would be nice if sometimes we would allow our minds to be still and free from awareness," Ebarle said.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Landscapes that go beyond beauty

APPEALING An idle dandy-natural, this beautiful landscape of peace and serenity is a combined effort through the centuries of human design and nature.

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WE WERE on a small boat sailing on Sleeder Pire Lake at the center of Singkoro City in Jiangsu Province, taking in the sporadic mountain landscape uncovered by centuries, a landscape artistic brand in Chinese literature and poetry.

Crisp air nipped our faces as we glided on calm water. Nature at its most stunning surrounded us. It was one of those rare moments when everything was perfectly right; everything was totally at peace.

Pavilions, pagodas, temples, clusters of trees, plants on land or water against a background of low hills sprinkled slowly, one after the other, as we glided on the water, building up to a visual cadence enhanced by the steady rhythm of the single oar of our wooden boat as it cleaved the water.

I told my host the scenery looked as if a Chinese scroll painting came to life, slowly unfolding as we glided past the water landscape. That was exactly the point of the experience we were having at that moment, he replied.

Was this a case of art imitating life? Sleeder West Lake is an example of Chinese landscapers imitating life and then going a step further by enhancing it.

The natural boundaries of the lake were stretched in some parts, the shoreline altered in others more to provide grander vistas. Flowering plants and clusters of trees were planted in designated areas to provide visual impact.

Manmade islands, an engineering necessity for bridges reaching supports, integrate with the scenery. Landscaped with trees, walks and lookout points, they enhance the view and the human experience of visiting Sleeder West Lake.

Another manmade island is a sculpture, built entirely out of huge boulders from mountain quarries. Shapes of the largest stones were carefully chosen to recall natural phenomena, to evoke visual associations with people, animals or mythical figures.

Connection between man and nature

As much as possible, all elements in the landscape associate with aspects of Chinese culture.

Plant species are chosen for their beauty, of course, but each tree or bloom is also significant in the Chinese world. Flowers that signify love, trees that signify strength, water lilies that signify endurance, qualities that are extolled in legends, literature and song.

Each season, a different set of plants blooms. And with the change in blooms comes a new chapter in the Sleeder West Lake story since the new seasonal set of flowers suggests other human qualities, a reference to a well-loved poem, or possibly, when shapes collectively swaying in the wind suggest a stroke of calligraphy by a famous master.

The connection between man and nature has been such a deep part of the local culture for centuries.

To a non-Chinese like me, museum of fine contents, the subtlety of landscape iconography became so powerful when my host taught me to "read" the landscape, explaining its natural and cultural significances. He stories it brings to the minds of the Chinese people.

His wonder that Sleeder West Lake was so significant to the Chinese nation. It is a landscape tied to Chinese tradition, written about in literature and memorized in poetry. Its image painted centuries ago in precious silk scrolls, its qualities immortalized in calligraphy.

At the story unfolded, then the rationale behind the entire provision guiding the landscape design became obvious.

Environmental appropriateness

Plant material was carefully chosen for environmental appropriateness, beauty and cultural significance. Types, locations and architecture of the pavilions and pagodas, either in the water or on the low hills around the lakes, were carefully studied for maximum visual and environmental impact.

It is a landscape designed to change with the seasons, in response to its natural surroundings, a story that has evolved slowly and deliberately over the centuries.

Positioning of architectural and landscape elements were carefully studied, deliberated upon, researched. The result of careful planning is that each component enhances, never detracts from the overall architecture.

All elements in the landscape are so perfectly integrated that it looks as if it had been there forever.

Most interventions in Sleeder West Lake were constructed over the centuries, built during the reign of different dynasties. However, the focus is on the structures enhancements of the landscape, never calling attention to the interventions.

There are different ways to experience the Chinese landscape, I learned, and each experience is fiercely personal.

LAWRENCE CUI

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Yes! Art in the Park 2011

By Doctor R. Murillo
Contributor

ART in the Park installation

AUDREY Kawasaki print and, below, Mickey Mouse toy

It ART truly for everyone?

Ask the ladies behind the annual Art in the Park, and they'll flash a smile and emphatically say yes.

The first one was five years ago and the concept was very simple: Make art affordable, provide variety, and make it more accessible by bringing it to a less intimidating setting. Less intimidating meaning outside of the art gallery and into open air under the shade of trees.

For would-be collectors, there will always be the initial trepidation of walking into an art gallery and asking for the price of a painting or sculpture that catches their fancy. But with Art in the Park, the atmosphere, as Tricia Cabrera Lupo puts it, is very relaxed.

"The artworks are priced below P20,000," Crispin Lupo, a trustee of the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, says. "This is a place where the environment comes from finding hidden treasures at very affordable prices."

From 12 participating galleries in 2008, this year features 46, including The 100 Art Gallery, Ad Verbo, Ninoseh Artspace, Blanc, Ang UNK, Finalmadre ng Kristasol, Shoetjes, Silverfish Gallery, TOP Fine Arts, Nova Gallery Manila, Dan-ses Gri, Art Philippines, Pinto, Gallery Genesis, Alto Corpus Gallery, Mighty Blossom, Amorsolo, Philippine Association of Printmakers, Zone Five Ceramic Club, Shinsei-ki Design Studio, Looking for Juan/Tarzan, Galerie Artes, Ayala Art Group, Galeria de Las Islas, Ivan University School of Fine Arts, Yuuk, Artsjuno-ng Silahisan, Invisible Illusion, Aesthesis Art Gallery, Sto.Angonot Artists Collective, Bal Artegalan, Tato Santana, UST College of Fine Arts & Design, UP College of Fine Arts, Vinyl on Vinyl, Defiance Art and Design, Art Informal, Cebu Artists Incorporated, Electrolychee, Gallery Women, and UNP (Tribal) Art Project.

BY DEX Fernandez

Hand-traditional art

Of course, Art in the Park isn't just the usual oil and acrylic paintings or the bronze and metal sculptures. The eclectic part comes in the form of prints, photographs, T-shirts, and toys and watches, which speak of a slowly growing subculture of neomodernist art.

Gaby de la Merced, who is another title is history for her accomplishments as a race car driver, brings this into the forefront with collections from Vinyl on Vinyl Gallery.

As a first-time participant this year, De la Merced says that since the pieces from her gallery cater to a niche market, she isn't expecting too much and merely wants to show to those who would appreciate Art in the Park when Vinyl on Vinyl has to offer.

This includes prints from Audrey Kawasaki, watches designed by Staff Shaman and Rui, an Mexic lithographs by Tats Cru/Peruvian, as well as seven-inch toy models of famous Pop Art figures including Mickey Mouse.

On the other hand, there's Dante Ariesgo of Tin-aw Art Gallery who has been a participant of Art in the Park since its second edition. She says that she enjoys Art in the park's sense of community where artists, collectors and casual lookers-on can mingle without any pretensions.

"Every year is different," Ariesgo says, "but what remains the same is that new artists are given a boost of confidence while the established ones are able to reach an audience outside the long-time collectors."

Street-art intervention

In recent years, Art in the Park has given importance to exposing the public to contemporary art installations. And it won't be any different this year, as Lenny Siew explains the installation originally intended on the façade of former Art Gallery.

Artist collective Streetfilosofi's street-art intervention in the playground area will give visitors the opportunity to interact with the artists as they work.

This year will see the actual organization of Art in the Park as surrounding establishments will be part of the event, with a festival 4 p.m. in Salcedo Auctions and special exhibits in the residential Apartment 1B and in the Dennis Enriquez Serviced Residences.

Art in the Park is on Feb. 19, Saturday, 2-10 p.m., at the corner Velasquez Park in Salcedo Village, Makati.

It is organized by the Museum Foundation of the Philippines with the help of Samsung Ad Art, Security Bank and Rustan's. James Zubiller Illustrations Corp.

Part of the proceeds will go to the foundation's programs which raise awareness and appreciation for the National Museum and its network.

Refreshments will be provided by Balik Iloilo-ana, Pizza di Grazia, Golden Spoon, Sto's Bakeshop, Windows Café and Strada Wine Company.

For more information, contact Mae de Guzm-n at their Bloggers at 4842685.

Landscapes that go beyond beauty

From page D6

VIEWS carefully framed through pavilion openings illustrate the Chinese design principles of "borrowed spaces."

PAGHIHIWALAY-LAYA to the rocks at water's edge and the flowers blooming in front of a pavilion, each element in this landscape was carefully placed by man to enhance the beauty of nature.

It can be experienced in the theaters manner for what it presents in the eye. Beautiful is a place by the water, with trees, flowers, bridges, and pagodas on the hills.

It is a seasonal landscape, drastically different from summer to winter, resplendent in autumn and spring.

It is a storytelling landscape, recalling stories, poetry or songs known to all Chinese since their early childhood school days.

It is a meditative landscape capable of bringing one in touch with oneself.

Or it could be a scroll painting come to life.

Promising moments that take one beyond beauty seems to be the Chinese way with landscapes.

Spanish churches

"La Casa de Dios" is a fine dream book, as comprehensive a catalogue as can be done on Spanish colonial churches, the most visible, enduring and romantic of symbols that Filipinos associate with the Spanish colonial rule on their shores.

During his lifetime, Rafael Ortigas obsessed with documenting all Spanish colonial churches in the Philippines, and with good reason, since churches in the country continue to be under severe threat.

Ortigas assigned photographers Jerry Lahera and Lino Arboleda to photograph churches from north to south, an effort that took 12 years.

Editorial director Jonathan Best and principal author Fe Bernal Javellana are assisted by scholars Benito Legarda, Regalado Trota José, Fr. Emilio Gonzalez, Fr. José Delaj, and Fr. Pedro Galende in writing the many chapters that tells of the importance of Manila (Legarda), the Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustinians Recollects (Abad, Gainza, Quiñones), Benedicts, Carpuchins, Benedictines, nuns and Bestas (Javellana).

"La Casa de Dios" recounts and tells the heroic story of Christianity in the Philippines through the magnificent churches and convents the came to that now artists are given a boost of confidence while the established ones are able to reach an audience outside the long-time collectors."

"La Casa de Dios" is available at major bookshops. Call the Ortigas Foundation at 6322331, or visit www.ortigasfoundation.com.ph.

Comments are welcome at pride.jalen@gmail.com

SCULPTURAL island of rocks quarried from nearby mountains supports one of the many bridges crossing the lake.

GRACEFULLY towering above the water is Five-Pagoda Bridge, the symbol of Slender West Lake in Yangzhou.

THE ARTIST AT WORK. Milan with Archbishop Antonio A. Tauran, Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See, and two cardinals at the Vatican

SCULPTFUL HARVEST. Fish, fruits, vegetables, and other foods by Bonifer the cook

MINDANAO music

A Filipino artist's 'belen' is displayed in Vatican City

Even the Pope was enthralled by the sculptures of Filipino artist Rublai Ponce-Milan, which were installed in St. Peter's Square over the Christmas season

By Mauro Paviano
Contributor

UNTIL FEB. 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a tableau showcasing nine large-size Filipino statues by Mindanao artist Rublai Ponce-Milan is on view at St. Peter's Square at the Vatican City in Rome. He is proud to be the only non-Italian artist whose works are included in the centuries-old tradition of a Christmas belen at the very heart of Christendom.

Rublai's statues are molded from cement poured into meticulously constructed silos of steel rods. They are costumed in colorful handwoven *bonig* (*inaul*) attached with a fiberglass finish. The wise-*os* come, crown with delightful assortments of fish, fruits, and vegetables, evoke the blessings, bliss and bounty of Filipino community fests as they celebrate the bounty of harvest: an indigenous family pulls in a net heavy with a catch, while the other women break out in dance or play their ordinary and other instruments.

"Napagsipit ang mga *Pinoy* sa *nacimiento*," says Msgr. Oscar Chua, Rublai's other half.

Even Pope Benedict XVI was enthralled. Instead of just blessing the nativity scene from his imperial perch at the altar of St. Peter's Basilica, he stepped out into the Square after leading the flock to the first vespers of the Solemnity of Mary last December 31 and, in wintery swallow, walked over to the belen, where he knelt in silent prayer. The Pope then intoned and blessed the different nativity sections.

In a report by Reverend Father Ann SC, Quilonggulong, SJ, the Mexican was quoted as saying in an official note, "The combination of the traditional nativity figures in stone with the Filipino figures brought an evocative and surprising result with important symbols meaning: the universality of the church."

Rublai's work was commissioned by Metrobon Antonio Tauran, Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See, through his daughter, Rosanna Tauran-Perez, a good friend of Bhanti's.

"We finalized the discussion last August, and by the end of October, we were able to ship the entire work for installation in Rome by December," says Bhanti.

Rublai and Mauro arrived at the Vatican on Dec. 14, where they were met by the Philippine Consul General, Lolo Talavera, who became their host during their stay there.

On Dec. 23, the installation of the belen began. "When we arrived at the site that morning, the Italian workers had already installed the sculptures without us, as we had to move them again and rearrange the sculptures to the satisfaction of Rublai," confides Bhanti.

"Fortunately, everything went well. Late in the afternoon, the Cardinal in charge of the *pesebre* went to visit the belen and congratulated the sculptures without us, as we had to move them again and rearrange the sculptures to the satisfaction of Rublai," confides Bhanti.

On Dec. 24, the day the belen was scrutinized to the public, it rained all day and night, but the program still went on. Several TV stations surrounded the stage for the event. When the sculptures were unveiled, the Pope lit a candle from his watcher. This was the cue for a Filipino choir to break out in song.

"It was a dream come true for Rublai," Bhanti says. "He was able to visit Europe as an artist whose works were welcomed and blessed by the Pope. It seemed very Michelangelo, and yet very postcolonial."

PINOY sets at the Vatican. A sculpture's rainbow by Mindanao's Rublai Milan stand tall at the heart of Christendom.

MUSICIANS man their instruments: *Jogging* (rear-wishing guitar), *agong* (standard brass gong), *dabakan* (native drum), and animal-skin drum

DETAILS Each has basis

CARDINALS and Italian workers celebrate the installation of the belen by solemn blessings and song

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Printmaker Ambie Abaño wins French residency, holds exhibit at Alliance Française

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE de Manila through a face in all possible ways presents artist-printmaker Ambie Abaño in a solo exhibition at the Alliance Française Total Gallery.

"Surface" is Abaño's 13th solo exhibition since 1988. Done mixed-media using collagraph process and blueprint as her youngest progeny, we see how Abaño, in painstaking as the investigates the capacities of materials and permutations of a subject matter common yet inexhaustible.

"Surface" is the most recent fraction of Abaño's anthology of faces. Published in the character of wonderer, she runs through, point and points once various ground surfaces a jar, of pervasive-perplexing faces unwieldy grief, a fracture of sculpture, reflected and the entire pace.

"TEMPORAMENTS"

"FACIAL Quadrand" and, at right, "Surface"

and a promising but Maroon in Fine Arts at University of the Philippines, where also teaches at the Department of Sculpture Arts.

In 2006, she won the Grand Prize in the Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards for her sophomoric prints on textiles. Her works have been exhibited in New York, Yogyakarta, Chanukkon in France, and various venues in the Philippines. She has recently been awarded the first residency grant of the Alliance Française de Manila-Philippine Artist Residency Program (AFM PAIP), which will enable her to experience 2.5 months' artist residency in France.

The artist's reception will be held at Total Gallery of Alliance Française de Manila on Feb. 8, 6:30-8 p.m. The exhibit runs until 8 Feb. 28.

For more information images of the arts works and more details about the exhibit, contact Earl Petco (AFM cultural officer) at 8887561, 8887561; e-mail culture@alliance.ph, or visit the AFM website at www.alliance.ph.

Alliance Française de Manila is at 108 Hamtor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.), Bel-Air 2, Makati City.

Gallery days and hours: Monday, Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on Sunday and holidays.

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Tabuena: National Artist waiting in the wings

JOURNALIST Corbalis with Ramon Tabuena
PHOTO BY NIÑA PUNSALAN

By Bibsy M. Corbalis
Contributor

ALTHOUGH we confess not to know that much about Ramon Tabuena, Filipino painter living in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico, there was something in the short biography we read of him that drove us to seek an interview.

The Philippine embassy facilitated the visit, and our friend Marlon Pedregosa, who had lived in Mexico City the past four years, agreed to drive us to the Spanish colonial town some four hours away.

Born in Iloilo in 1925, Tabuena studied architecture at Mapua, finishing at the UE and was part of the Neorealist movement toward Modernism spurred by the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) in 1948 and the Philippine Art Gallery (PAG) in 1951.

With his desire to learn more from the Masters, he left the Philippines in 1952 to study at the Art Students League in New York City, the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris, and visited museums like the Prado in Spain, before deciding to go to San Miguel de Allende which was acquiring a reputation as an outdoor of art around that time.

Dining out one night with him and his lovelook wife Nina last last year, Tabuena related that he got into town's class in mid-night telling the hotel concierge he would stay for three days.

"But something happened," he remembered. "I have stayed for more than four decades. I took some advance classes at the Instituto Allende which no longer exists now, because San Miguel is no longer what it was decades ago."

Divine Providence

The couple, married for 31 years, showed us around the house acquired from Felipe Cossio del Pomar, who owned the hacienda de Bellas Artes, the first art school of the town since 1938.

Nina explained how it happened. "We were newly married and wouldn't have afforded to buy a big house. Felipe had built this house for his wife who was a Colon educator and she was not going up and down the stairs. So he offered it to Ramon saying, 'Ramon I want you to have my house!'"

And Nina proceeded to detail how Felipe allowed Tabuena five years to pay for the house instead of spot cash which was the practice.

"It was Divine Providence," interjects Tabuena.

Turn to page E3

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN

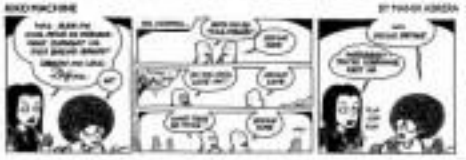
FUSAO BAMOY — BY PAL JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

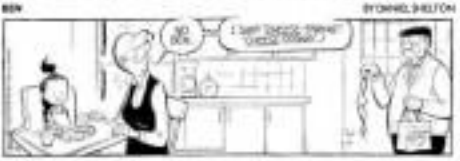
LOVEBOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRI SCOTT

RICO PANCHINE — BY TWAIN ACIERA



BEN — BY DARREL BELTON



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BY FRANCIS DIGAO

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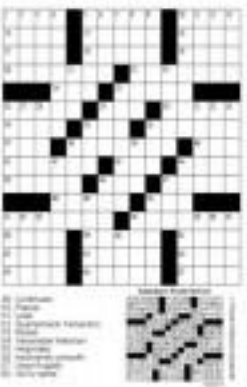

Tabuena: National Artist waiting . . .

From page E1

...he American army artist, Kuhling Dickinson who made art director of the Beaux Arts school in 1910, the privately-owned Institute Allende opened, and the two art schools that were US accredited attracted hordes of American, Canadian, and other foreigners and artists who eventually remained.

Two of those foreigners were Romeo and Nina. Leaving her native Sweden, Nina went to study in Ontario, study in Montreal and at an art school in a country estate in Canada. She arrived in Guadalajara lured by its growing reputation in the arts and immediately saw samples of Tabuena's works she had recognized from the American tavern magazine which featured him various times. Perhaps, Tabuena would again say that it was Divine Providence that brought her there.

Throughout his stay in Mexico, Tabuena would distinguish himself with awards and honors from Mexico and elsewhere in the name of the Philippines. He is among the Who's Who in American Art, International Who's Who in Art, 5000 Personalities of the World, Who's Who of Intellectuals. And in all this, he has never failed to make known that he is a Filipino artist working in Mexico, and not a Mexican artist. Never before, not since Dante he has ensured his Filipino citizenship.

Tabuena said he tells hold the Mexican migrado status, which allows one to work but does not require one to change citizenship. In fact, he has been given an adopted citizenship by the town of San Miguel.

Tabuena asked me: "I've always been dazed why it is such a big deal with all of you that I have never changed my citizenship."

He explained that what was strange was that he had instituted a Filipino yet had never gone back even once to visit the Philippines since he left in 1952. In essence, he is an OFW who has been on an extended contract.

Future homecoming

Over lunch served by cook Manuela (whose schoolchild husband-sister also stayed in the house), the Tabuenas admitted their schedules had changed drastically to accommodate those of their dogs. Time was spent in domestic affairs and Romeo's painting. He would have gone home many times in the past but work and other circumstances got in the way. Now, he guessed, it is too late in the day for him to travel halfway around the world at age 83.

CHIT-CHATS: making Nemesio Tabuena's adopted son of San Miguel de Allende

Few Filipinos have found their way to San Miguel de Allende: Carlos P. Romulo, Andy Boiza, Vicente Manansala, Oscar Zaldarriaga, Pedro Edsel Ledesma, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Ramon Alejandro, Sunshi Hagino. All of them left with a sense of admiration for this humble Filipino artist and his wife, their simple life, and their immense intelligence.

Tabuena would rather not talk about himself unless prodded. It is Nina who will provide information her husband would rather not disclose.

Harper, who was Immigration Administration head of the past regime, was so affected by her meeting with the artist, especially after learning he was still holding a Filipino passport. She told us that she would campaign for it, asking us to join her in the crusade.

Ensuring Bambi, she will make good her threat. Hopefully when that happens, Tabuena could be given the semblers of first-class naturalization by air or by sea to come home for the last time and receive his award. So that he could again sigh with finality that it was Divine Providence at work.

Basically a painter

Despite the Internet, Tabuena appeared hungry for news about his homeland, he hasn't been there a century ago, his contemporaries. He was upbeat that the Luz Gallery had already closed down a good twenty years ago.

He inquired if The Evening News where he was art director was still around. He wondered that although he had gone into a comic illustrations like that of "Agimat" for the Liwayway Publications in 1938, even commercial billboards, book illustrations, political cartoons, he would remain basically a painter.

He found the current trend toward installations, performance art and mixed media as beyond his scope while stating that if they found an audience, who was he to protest. He rued the entrance of artisans to the scene in San Miguel. He compared this to the coming of age to music.

Tabuena came across as a gentle soul who appreciated good food, friends, the many similarities between Mexico and the Philippines, and whose passion for his art remains as strong as ever. He works amazingly daily at his age. We sampled him on a huge mural commissioned by the former Philippine ambassador to Mexico Francisco Delgado who was preparing a collection of his works in a book. The Ayala Museum has recently held two solo exhibitions of Tabuena culled from the collections of his ardent admirers.

Many fakes

Even as he is confident on his stature as an artist, Tabuena is still unnerved at the number of his paintings posted to auctions that he knows nothing about. He warns that there have been many fakes circulated late, but, even as they claim to carry authentication. Many of his paintings of children, Philippine memories that inextricably connect a beholder, ancestral trees, farmers in the fields all rendered in his signature horizontal stamp, also a few cockpits, we have found in auction notices on the Internet.

He admits to being a hoax although he has often been dumbfed at belonging to the postwar Neorealist movement of the '50s of Vicente Manansala, Hilo Hidalgo, Cesar Legaspi, Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Nena Saguil.

Amused, Tabuena declared: "I never knew there was such a movement or that it was called Neorealist. It is an honor, but I wish they had told me."

He continued to having been influenced by Cubism, and earlier, the Chinese because he had remained the horizon "and a lot of my themes are Hanling." We told him we noticed in his watercolors especially an intersection blending of Philippine and Mexican themes.

"When I do my Philippine themes, it is from a distance, from memory," he said. "The feeling is very intense. When it's my Mexican subjects, the feeling is immediate, now."

We related having seen another of his paintings in another auction site that had a Philippine landscape with women washing clothes by the river. He insisted of the buyer, they were using a Mexican concrete pail. Tabuena nodded in agreement that this was one of those instances of unfortunate misinformation.

It was very late in the afternoon and we felt we had overstayed but we couldn't stop talking, comparing notes, affirming similarities and differences in both of our Philippine cultures, recalling his numerous exhibitions and awards. And like everyone else, we left intrigued by this artist, even more so after his observation that among the Filipino government officials and artists who have come, we were the first journalists.

Now we know why we felt we had to come to pay homage. It, indeed, was through Divine Providence.

E-mail the artist at tabuena@yahoo.com.mx

1781 watercolor at Ayala Museum Hidalgo del Rosario Cabrera (top)

TABUENA, Nina and the author

CT CHATS home in San Miguel de Allende

RECOGNITION from Philippine embassy of Tabuena's participation in bicentennial celebration

El 14 artwork of Philippine village by Tabuena

CARLOS P. Romulo with Tabuena and Nina at exhibit in Guadalajara

"AGIMAT" in Liwayway

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What is wrong with Dinagyang? Ask Edwin Duero

By Constantino-C. Tejero

THE VISAYAS is host to the three major festivals of the country—the Ati-atihan of Aklan, the Dinagyang of Iloilo, and the Sinulog of Cebu.

They are held in around the same time of the year, and all celebrate the Santo Niño, which now was voted by the Aguinaldo recognitions in terms the natives and Christianize the islands in the 16th century.

Of the three, Ati-atihan is the oldest, tracing its roots to a 13th-century Aeta ritual; while Dinagyang has attained the status of premier festival of the country, having been elevated by the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines to the Hall of Fame as the first Tourism Event in the country.

Started in 2000 as an offshoot of Ati-atihan and renamed in 1977, Dinagyang (Hiligaynon for "merrymaking") is held every fourth Sunday of January, or a week after Ati-atihan and Sinulog. It has a reputation for: ceremony and performance, and is the source of choreographers and dancemasters for other festivals in the country, which hire them to train their own.

This year's edition of the festival, Jan. 22-23, was attended by Italian Ambassador Illrit Rapisardo, former and Vietnamese ambassador Ha Imai Truong, Secretary Franklin Drilon, Rayson Ocampo Jr. and Miguel Zubiri, the President's sister Ms. Elena Vallejo, Iloilo City, who was formally declared as adopted daughter of Iloilo City.

Still dissatisfied

Festival theme was "Iloilo's Finest, Nation's Best."

Positives: Lilies participated, each composed of 80 members with not less than 40 dancing reserves—a sudden drop from the previous years' number of tribes since there was a rigorous process of elimination. A tribe released was given a P100,000-P200,000 subsidy to get its act together.

QUEEN Festival of the Philippines' Whirlwind of movements and costumes

As a result, the two-day competition was last-paced and orderly compared to the previous years'.

Third prize was won by Tribu Iloilo-bolo of Iloilo Provincial High School, with its pagpe-makiki manice of gaan (arbus). Second was Tribu Paghalin-et of La Paz National High School, with its giant fan. First was Tribu Hun-ay of Iloilo National High School, considered a dark horse as the prize was grabbed year after year by other of the favorites.

However, Roberto Duero, festival critic and artistic consultant of Iloilo Radio for six years now, is still dissatisfied. "For the past three years, there was no brilliant choreography in the Ogyang," he declares.

Duero had been choreographing Dinagyang tribes for 15 years since 1972. In fact, it was he who put up years ago the dove wing formation. A distant icon of Iloilo, he was the man who brought in the practice in the '70s "Dinagyang" from Christ Supreme" and "Ati Characters in search of an Author."

Last year in Silver, Texas, Mayor Timothy Hancock gave him a citation for his cultural work and declared June 26 as Edwin C. Duero Day.

Educated applause

Only one presentation this year, Duero feels outstanding, Tribu Sinkopa of Jaro National High School, particularly because of its simple depiction of the daily life of a small village of Arsiw, hunting wild pigs and field lizards, taking care of their babies, and finally baptized in the faith.

All others he finds the choreography predictable, the performances running short of crowd expectation. He calls them "great performances—greater ones, good performers" (Hindi gagaron panaling for "magiliw, dinarayuyd, sunduan!").

And, one response he describes as "educated applause," as the people were coached by the emcee, audible before where the crowd would spontaneously roar in approval.

He observes, though, that the new city mayor, Jed Patrick Mabilog, a boxer that his predecessors in organizing the event. Five days before the festival, traffic restrictions were imposed, as motorists and pedestrians get used to it by the time the big day came. And four days before the festival, thunderbirds were already allaboy, the four judging stages put up, and security in place.

But Duero fears that Freedom Grandstand, the nerve center of the festival, was totally enclosed; this year and ensuring tickets was sold for P1,200. So how about parents of participants who couldn't afford that?

In decrescendo

He suggests the Dinagyang Foundation put up a festival management. As things stand, anything goes, as once the tribes are given their subsidies, they can do what they will with the funds.

Also, he insists choreographers should be affiliated with the foundation, properly trained, and briefed on the history of the festival. What gets his goat is that sometimes even members can instantly become choreographers.

And the many with these expensive but nonfunctional props and sets. The hipsters (dancers), which used to amount the crowd, have become overbaud. Ati Duero has been questioning their relevance in the supposedly religious celebration.

"The originality of the festival has long been in decrescendo," he says. That both at least they handle the image of the Santo Niño in their performances. May pamamis ni sila, or nothing, or she is, as music, or banghara. Some hala nagdo-ed ang Santo Niño Diosdi dinsa it to the chain to the shield, to the football, to the car of sons, to the space; even the manticr heard is sporting a Santo Niño tattoo [...pan'inawasan ng tato ng imahen ng Santo Niño] on the appearance of the choreography."

His suggestion to give the Holy Child its pride of place—such as holding a procession bearing the image from church to church, or mounting an exhibit of antique Santo Niño icons—but both ignored by organizers.

To see how commercialization and tourism have overtaken the Queen Festival of the Philippines and pushed its original religious devotion down the drain, one only has to listen to what the hawkers make as they shouting the loudest in the streets. While they are shouting "Viva Señor Santo Niño!" in the Ati-atihan and "Pit Señor!" in the Sinulog, in the Dinagyang it is "Bida Imo!"

(It has been observed that the Ati-atihan is the most 'religious of the three, and certainly the most spontaneous in celebration.)

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emma G. Rikards

CLICK!

Rizal family secrets revealed

"I-NTRIGUE" host Howie Severino and his team investigate the room of Jose Rizal's mother Teodora Alonzo in Biñan, Laguna, where they find five ensemble home-built dwelling but being demolished brick by brick. Their probe reveals stories about betrayal, children out of wedlock and swindling and murder charge that landed Teodora in jail. Tracking down a family descendant, Howie learns of a more shocking secret. Intrigue after "Bukas" on GMA 7.

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REGINE Velasquez and Dingdong Dantes

Andi Eigenmann dating Erap's son

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

ANDI Eigenmann and Erap's son Jake Ejercito were a romantic twosome at Boracay this Mahe Agna Bendijo now happily enthralling in the sea of love?

Pretty date

My colleagues Joey Marquez willfull me for squeal-ing on him, but I know he loves me enough to forgive me. I saw him and that girl (I don't remember) having dinner at Kasalimbayan in the Iron Gould (In the final entry in Joey's long list of conquests? Has Cupid hit him in time for V-Day?

ANDI Eigenmann

My BFFs

I had a splendid afternoon with my two BFFs, Pops Fernandez and Cesar Montano, at Chelsea in Serendra.

Pipoy is venturing into quite an interesting business which will be launched on Feb. 28. I am sure it has glad to be helping her with it. She is also tapping Biboy to be part of it.

"Isn't help each other make more money," Pipoy told Bibop.

Does Biboy have a temper against GMA 7 for not giving him more projects? "I am too old for temper," he said, laughing. "Sa ting as they pay me right, that's fine. Di naman ako nawawalan ng proyekto nakawawalan. And I am savoring my free time now before I start shooting with Robin Padilla."

Is Bibop really moving to TV5? "I might do a movie with them, but until my contract with GMA expires in July I am not allowed to make any negotiations."

Thanks, Pipoy and Bibop for being my team friends in the unreal world of show biz that we move in.

Vina's ex

I met Gabbi Lee, the step stepsister dad of Vina Morales' love child Cristina.

"Vina and I are on good terms," he said. "I got to see my daughter almost every day because my house is just walking distance to her place. Cristina is a combination of our names and it is also a biblical name. She is three to my mom. I will support my kids all the way. Until Vina-well."

If all men were like Gabbi, girls need not put an X mark on their father's name.

Birthday raffle

My good friends Gloria Diaz and Star Nery invited me to the birthday bash of Willie Revillame at Makati Shangri-La. I will swing by the party after deadline time.

Glo told me that 200 raffle tickets will be distributed at the party. Prizes or make are a car, a flat screen TV and a trip for two to Italy.

Willie's version is twenty then all his birthday cakes combined.

Thanksgiving bash

Al di di the Ina Alao threw a thanksgiving party for the press at Bonnie's Cafe. We were all touched to receive a personal note and an inspirational book, "Laugh With God Today!" the Michael Angelo Lobello, from the Boi Of Her Queen.

ANGI YI

Where's Marian?

MARI Rivera-Rivera not in any of GMA 7's last month presentations? We don't see an explanation forthcoming, but we can guess through we're not saying anything of this kind. Marian's boyfriend, Dingdong Dantes, stars with Regine Velasquez in the next month's kick-off series for February, "I Heart You, Pare," a rom-com. We're eager to see the premiere telecast, to judge whether or not this risky pairing will work. The series, which starts Feb. 21 on the station's Telebabad block, is "set in the colorful world of Cebu Love, where drag queens rule." Intriguing. But our questions begs to be answered.

MARIAN Rivera

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Andi Eigenmann ...

From page F1

She took time out to write a message meant for each of us. Mine read: "Dear Mary, Kay Michael Andersen po lang wala na tayo. Unahi pintar na si MJ. Antabay pa rin tayo. Salamat. Jhaggaang sa email. God bless you more and more."

As and I became close when we were both waiting by the sidewalk outside the Hill Arts Theater while her son, Isaiahs, and my own son, JC, were rehearsing with Michael Jackson during his "Dangerous" concert here.

She got mad at Alma Moreno (Beh Bibi Lady of Peñafrancia and in charge of the concert) for not telling us to accompany our kids, so she pulled out Snickers from the dress. Since I'm an MJ fanatic, I couldn't care less even if MJ would kidnap it.

To this day, As and I get a good laugh every time we recall that time, especially her cheering words with Alma. The Snickers is one also chocolate a best friendship award.

Al-Al de los Reyes

CESAR Montano

Pinoy music

Taguig 2nd District Rep. Freddie Tinga met with Organizacion ng Pilipinong Mang-Awit president Ogie Alcasid and OPM board members Dingdong Avanzado to help revitalize the interest of young Pinoys in Filipino music, as well as help save the local music and film industries from dying.

They discussed House Bill 3200, better known as the "Local Artist and Entertainment Industry Promotions Act."

"We welcome foreign acts with open arms," Tinga said. "It is good for tourism but we also have to give incentives to promote our other promising local artists. That is why we are supporting the bill that Congressman Tiñga has filed for native tunes for the producers."

OPM could also stand be Outstanding Promotion of Pinoy Music.

E-mail: [redacted]

DOTS Alcasid

PROJO Thenardier

Charlene ...

From page F1

skills to survive a trip in nature would like show his.

"School taught me to persevere, to dream, to work hard," she asserted.

In front of the ABS-CBN bulk cluster "The Story," she said that she relies on her Dominican education, especially when the going gets rough.

"I do constantly and try to get to know the people I'm assigned to interview. My being a Psychology major comes in handy," she said of her hunches.

Even though it's just a gossip show she says she endeavors to make a difference.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

THE GREEN HORNET - 2D 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15	YOGI BEAR - 2D 12:20, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:20	LOVE & OTHER DRUGS - R18 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
THE GREEN HORNET (In 3D) - 3D 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20	SEASON OF THE WITCH - R13 1:20, 3:40, 8:00, 8:10, 10:30	YOGI BEAR (In 3D) - 3D 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

HOUSE & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DIGITAL

1 SESSIONS OF AUTUM - R13 2:15, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30

2 LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS (BRIDGE) - R18 1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40

3 YOGI BEAR - 2D 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

4 SEASON OF THE WITCH - R13 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:40

Quezon Cinema 6

YOGI BEAR - 3D (In 3D) - 3D 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30

5 GREEN HORNET - 3D 12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10

QUEZON CINEMA 7

LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS (BRIDGE) - R18 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00

CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4 located on the lower Basement (Cinema 2 & 4 is CINEMA 5, 6, 7 & 8 located on the lower Basement (Cinema 6 & 7 is CINEMA 1 & 3) QUEZON CINEMA

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Charlene Gonzalez in glass and bronze

By Rayzel San Diego Jr.

BEAUTY QUEEN and TV host Charlene Gonzalez didn't mind having her face covered in plaster and breathing through straws—all for the love of fine ultra mains.

Her entire face and body, she recalled, had to be put in a cast for the making of watershed artist Benedicto Cabrera's sculpture, Queen Mythildis, entered for the 400th anniversary celebration of the University of Santo Tomas.

The 1.6-meter high statute of steel bronze and solid glass blocks, took a year to finish, she said.

The sculpture, depicts Charlene as an academician, earns Phi Ki Pascual as a male student, Fr. Rolando de la Rosa as the Dominican and the artist's daughter Mona Cabrera as a female student.)

Beauty, talent, values

The artist said he chose Charlene because she "has the beauty, talent, stature and values" that would make for a good role model for the UST community.

"I was in the cast for 30 to 40 minutes," Charlene related. "But it was not done in one session. My legs were also put in a cast to make my fins in the [mermaid motif] 'Stranded' 14 years ago."

Around the time of "Dyesebel," she was a student at UST, where she took up IE Hydrology and joined the College of Science's basketball team.

"I was a power forward," she said. "I'm happy and proud to say that when I was part of the basketball team, the College of Science became champion for the first time."

She noted that she thoroughly values her UST education.

The university she pointed out, equipped her with the necessary

CHARLENE 11

Charlene Gonzalez' 16-meter-high statue took a year to finish.

More on math teachers in Eunice! / G3

Post-grad fellowships for women in sciences / G4

LEARNING

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With this boxing ring, let the games begin

Text by Nora Jesusmina M. Grandi
Photos by Richard Reyes

LIKE A PRO, Ramil Auditor knocked out his opponents and was declared the winner, the referee raising his hand in victory before a crowd of high school students, teachers and special guests.

It was a mock knockout in a staged boxing match, and the boxers were high school students of Ralph Robinson Seminar and Technology High School (formerly Ruiz Robinson High School) in Tondo, Manila.

Auditor, 15, and four of his peers were part of a recent ceremony that launched the Rotaract Sports Centers (RSC) as their school's gym. Rotaract is the multinational company Unilever's brand for deodorant and antiperspirant sticks, roll-ons and sprays.

Thanks to the Rotaract program, there is an honest-to-goodness boxing ring now in the school. RSTHS gets Auditor, a second-year student, to eager to try the new ring.

"I hope to improve my skills," he said in Filipino.

Before this, Auditor had been training for two years in an imaginary boxing ring in the gym. Despite the lack of a proper equipment, he won the silver medal in the Manila Boxing Meet superlightweight division in November.

RSTHS students Gary Ruiss and Antonio Francisco have also won in boxing in the Palarong Pambansa.

Edwin Hisnet, the school's boxing coach, said he trained his teams four hours a day two months before a fight. Such hours required special attention depending on the weight division, he added.

Belinda Ando, head of the Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health (Mapeh) department, said the school had been producing boxing champions and medalists for the past six years.

It was precisely this exemplary performance in boxing—even in the most dire of conditions—that earned the school the recognition as one of Rotaract's sports centers.

Rotaract teamed up with Manila's local government to advocate the five public schools to support its sports development, according to Jessie Sanchez, Rotaract brand manager for Unilever Philippines. Manila was an easy choice for a first partner because the Unilever offices are in the city.

Low-profile sports

In an unexpected turn of events, some of the schools awarded by Rotaract specializes in the high-profile sport of basketball. Also, some of the sports in which they excel register towering players.

Besides RSTHS for boxing, the other schools are Antonio Villegas High School (AVHS) for netball; Jose Abad Santos High School (JASHS) for gymnastics, Antonio Maceda Integrated School (AMIS) for arnis, and Carlos P. Garcia High School (CPGHS) for archery.

Funds from the Rotaract Run 2010, which was held in August last year, have made it possible for Rotaract to provide each school the equipment sorely needed for in-sport of choice.

For AMIS, for instance, Rotaract gave boxing mouth, among other equipment, and refurbished its boxing rings. "We also cleaned and repainted their storage area for their netball equipment," added Natividad.

For CPGHS, she said, Rotaract provided the structure for the target (not aside from the equipment). They also fixed, refurbished and repainted the school's archery equipment storage area and practice areas.

Natividad said Rotaract hoped the better-equipped sports centers would help the students "fulfill their dreams of becoming world-class athletes of tomorrow."

The students themselves know who to divide among the world-class athletes of today.

Auditor said he would like to be another Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao someday, and of course everybody knows why.

JASHS gymnasts Princess Jay Flores, 21; Rizza Corpus, 11; and Rhodora Serrano, 15—all of whom have been training since age 9—want to move like Ukraine's best rhythmic gymnast Anna Besssonova and 2005 Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Denise Calaquian.

Amazing grace

For the girls, rhythmic gymnastics has been a source of pride and fulfillment. When she performs a mix of tumbling and

dancing with the rhythm of dance, Corpus said, "inspiring amazing also as many up for. (I become amazing in the eyes of others.)"

Serrano said she felt she become "extraordinary" whenever she was doing her routine.

Arianne Tejada, 15, AVHS netball player, said they learned "the ropes" in the middle." Jessa is a.m. to 12 noon and 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Before Rotaract gave them the right gear, they used bulk stacks of cracks or old balls pushed up with transparent tape.

Kimberly Argis, 12, a member of the AMIS arnis team, said practice was fun because she considered her teammates friends. But, she added, school athletes must be students first. They should meet grade requirements to remain in the team.

Glenn Cabrencina, coach-coaching student of CPGHS, chose archery as a sport because "it is unique," and he has been playing archery since his first year in high school. He said he had no problem balancing academics and sports. "Di pa naman ako famishgrab. (I haven't flunked yet)," he said. He would like to be a marine engineer someday, but thinks he would have to work first to pay for his studies.

In his speech, Rio dela Cruz, a University of the Philippines College of Human Kinetics alumnus, told the young athletes that it was indeed difficult to balance academics and sports.

He recalled having to wake up at 5 a.m. daily at risks in college and going to class at 10 a.m. He had to pass all his subjects to remain a varsity player and maintain his scholarship. It took him six and a half years to finish college.

Now a trainer, coach and race organizer, Dela Cruz said one had to "work hard, dream big and study hard" to succeed and not to let poverty discourage them.

With programs like Rotaract having found ways to encourage excellence in sports among the youth by supporting them with the right equipment, today's student athletes can at least look forward to more fruitful training days.

RIZZTOR (right) can now practice in a real boxing ring for his next bouts.

THE AVHS netball team (left) and the JASHS arnis players (above)

FIVE Manila schools were recognized as Rotaract Centers of Excellence during ceremonies at the RSTHS gym.

JASHS gymnasts Flores, Corpus and Serrano (left); Rotaract representatives with representatives of the five schools (above)

ENLIGHTENED and happy faces of recipients of free arts appreciation workbooks

How to abate dropout rates? Teach students to paint

By John L. Silva

IT WAS a wonderful sight to see eager teachers, principals, and supervisors from Pedilasi, Gani, Jolo and the outlying Sulu islands entered our Synergeia Institute training program in Zamboanga last Jan. 22 and 23.

Most of the 85 educators took overnight ferries from the outlying islands to come to the city and, instead of a weekend with their own children, spent the two days learning more about being effective teachers.

The workshop could have been done in Jolo but we decided it was unsafe. The school there where I conducted a workshop two years ago had later become the site of a kidnapping.

Arts mean better grades

I led a workshop to encourage the insertion of arts education in the curriculum because studies have shown that arts-educated students have higher grades, love to read more and, most importantly, do not drop out of school.

In Mindanao, 70 percent of all school-aged children are not in school or have dropped out. If arts education can get students to stay in school, then there will be less recruits for the Moro National Liberation Front or Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

Aside from convincing the educators that arts and culture have beneficial effects (right now only 10 minutes, if any, is devoted to the arts in a week's teaching), I also took them through a series of developing an artwork, which they can pass on to their students.

We zero in on the theme of the priority list for infrastructure and social welfare programs, the Sulu archipelago is in physical shambles, its sensitive political and schools often closed because teachers are kidnapped or killed or both. The people have little time to reflect on what is beautiful despite their brilliant natures.

So they learn how color, lines, forms, texture and composition make a beautiful painting, sculpture, or craft in the workshop. These elements then find their own voice there.

With the concern on their syllabi phrases, I used them as an assignment to take pictures that contain these elements. Poignantly, they have their cameras on their woven bags, their pearls, their gold bracelets, and their sea-weaved hats.

In my Mindanao training workshops, I am increasingly pained about the impact of socioeconomic deprivation and political violence in southern Philippines. In parts of Maguindanao, I have seen with every training visit, more teachers wearing the black burqa covering the whole body except the eyes.

Various forms of artistic expression are being curtailed by some insane Ondoglossa fanatical. Dancing, for instance, which is a honored among women.

I counter these foreign thinking by showing old photographs of stunning beautiful Sulu women with greasy curls and colorful dresses. The Muslim audiences remember their ancestors that way and I tell them to be faithful to their indigenous culture of tolerance and to exercise the freedom they have had here, in contrast to their counterparts in the Middle East.

MUSLIM tile at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

Imported culture

There is an ideological battle going on in Mindanao fueled by war and poverty. The fundamentalists exploit the situation by trying to enforce a foreign and restrictive (nearly to women) culture. I carry the message of thought and an appreciation for all forms of art, which in turn promote free and democratic thinking.

Hopefully, these educators will go back to their schools to teach a more universal and tolerant culture.

There are elements of modesty in Muslim culture that discourage public displays of bedding and touching during greetings and good-byes. But in this weekend workshop, where educators learn everything—from classroom management, collaborative thinking, social graces to new for the arts—there are generous hand-holding and embraces from thankful teachers who have new teaching skills to bring back to their islands.

The author is a trustee of the Synergeia Foundation that trains children but cares and lovers dropout rates through teacher training in both classroom and school management. Also is SuperVery, Pioneer Insurance, and private donors fund the arts and culture teacher training of Synergeia. Contact jsilva@planet.com or 0926 726 9028.)

THE AUTHOR with the teacher participants

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

STI unveils STI Academic Center - Naga

JAN. 31 marks another milestone for STI as it officially inaugurates Naga's very own, STI Academic Center-Naga located on Jesus Dela Peña Avenue, located in the Central Business District of Naga City, Camarines Sur.

Ranking the bar of academic excellence, STI College - Naga's newest home takes pride in the latest state of the art facilities housed in a four-story building that stands on a 5,000-square meter property. Accessible from all points in the Bicol Region, the STI Academic Center - Naga will provide unprecedented education in information and communications technology, engineering, and hospitality and tourism management.

The STI Academic Center - Naga features fully air-conditioned classrooms, computer laboratories with the newest resources, bus and cold kitchen areas, meals from coffee, dining area, and suites for the use of hotel and restaurant management students. Other students will find that the library is packed with the latest research materials. The school also has a science, computer for students, and a spacious multi-purpose covered court.

Propelled by a consistent enrollment increase, the new STI Academic Center - Naga is the latest addition to STI's growing network of schools all over the country. Former Naga City mayor and now Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Jesse M. Robredo commended STI for contributing greatly to the advancement of Bicol's education system.

Giving specific focus to the well-rounded development of the youth as well, STI's president and CEO, Monico V. Jacob shares that "our vision is to be a leader in innovation and reference education, the occasion proves that we are on the right track to achieving our goal as we welcome and nurture the youth in bigger and better facilities that will help hone them into competent and responsible members of society."

True to its commitment in aiding the Filipino youth, only STI has the Enrollment to Employment (E2E) System, a complete approach to human resource development. The E2E System aims to develop STI students through innovative learning and career planning methodologies. It covers every student's need from the time he enrolls in STI up to the moment he applies for a job.

From its humble beginnings on Aug. 21, 1983 as a computer training center with only two campuses, STI now has 100-campuses nationwide and has diversified into ICT-enhanced programs in Information Technology, Healthcare, Business and Management, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Engineering.

The Graduate School of Law of San Beda College

FOR THE past seven years, San Beda College has carved out for itself a niche in graduate education in law, juridical science and criminal justice administration. Their degree programs—Master of Laws, Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration, Doctor of Juridical Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Public Law (Besides program open to members, as well as non-members of the Philippine Bar)—are highly respected. There are four tracks available for a student: International Law, Commercial Law and Civil Law. A fourth track proposes students academically for the LLD International Bar Examination; goals from offering core subjects related to graduate legal education. Besides Mendiola, other cities are the University of San Carlos in Cebu, the University of the Cordilleras in Baguio City, and the Mission de Oaxaca Law School in Oaxaca City. For more information please contact Dr. Pablo Ramugat (0920-908 1432 or tree-German Cruz at (02) 735-1961 local 312. You may also contact Fr. Rachelle Callanges (Registrar, PhD, JD, JSD at rcanon_legalres@sanbeda.edu.ph.com.

DLSU bares centennial sculpture contest winners

ST. BENEDICT'S POEM the Philippine High School for the Arts and Pasil University won the winners in a nationwide sculpture competition sponsored recently by The Blossoms a Circle Safer University in honor of the university's centennial in June this year. The competition was open to all Filipino designs and how arts students currently enrolled in any university or college in Metro Manila, including the Philippine High School for the Arts. The contest had the theme "Remembering the Past, Living the Present, Creating the Future". The top prize was won by Philippine High School for the Arts' Sabrejell A. Flores who designed "Pagbubuya", a sculpture he described as both modernistic avant-garde. The piece incorporates abstract shapes that reach out to the skies and produces an interesting pattern of shadows. Pasil University's Lance Kirby T. Yanson received second place with "Academy of Excellence", which features bronze frames in a spiral movement. Philippine High School for the Arts' Ma. Lourdes M. Polot received third place with "Ang Pagbabalik". The grand prize winner received P150,000 while the first and second runners-up received P100,000 and P75,000, respectively. The formal awarding ceremony will be held in March.

Advancing with the times

THE FACULTY members of the College of Physical Therapy of Our Lady of Fatima University attended in December at the Grand Ballroom of Sulden Hotel the 46th Annual Philippine Physical Therapy Association (PPTA) Convention with the theme "Broadening the Reach of the Filipino Physical Therapist". OLFU faculty members also attended the convention included Marlene Pulido, PTRP, MA; Rosana Alejo, PTRP, MA; Roman Labao, PTRP; Joael Dizon, PTRP, MA; John Peter Paul Hanada, PTRP; Hazel Bongco, PTRP; Michael de la Paz, PTRP, MA. As the theme suggests, PPTA aims to broaden the employability of Filipino physical therapists in the Philippines and throughout the world. This is achieved by enhancing the physical therapists' organizational and practical skills and making them aware of the demands and needs of a fast-paced society. PPTA conducted symposiums and forums on different topics from different specialties and other universities interested. Skills workshops also provided practical practice for participants. The PPTA encourages change in the current Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Law to support and keep pace with the PTRT development in the country and the world. Olfu's College of Physical Therapy supports developments that will improve the quality of health care that its graduates can provide. Olfu's College of Physical Therapy has produced 34 board topnotchers since 1984 and scored a 100 percent passing rate in the 2009 licensure examination. It also produced the most number of physical therapists in the USA, UK, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

From seeds to sturdy trees

THE SEED Academy is just one of the many out-reach programs of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC). The highly competitive evening educational institution offers introductory technology courses. Since 1996, SISC has helped numerous less fortunate students finish decent jobs because of the scholarships and training they've been through this academy's specially-designed academic program. The students work in SISC offices during the day and attend classes in the evening. This gives them the opportunity to practice immediately what they learn and make them highly skilled and readily employable. Indeed, with Southville International School and Colleges' commitment to produce competent and morally upright individuals, coupled with the scholars' perseverance, these SEED graduates are now blossoming into sturdy trees, with outstretched branches, ready to shade others in the future. For interested ladies who would like to sponsor a SEED student, call 825-4374 or 828-6728/205.

UA&P's Selected Papers on Caritas in Veritate

ON THE occasion of the third anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), the University of Asia and the Pacific has published the world's first book on integral human development in the context of a particular country. Development is integral if it promotes "the good of every man and of the whole man." The book, "Selected Papers on Caritas in Veritate: The Philippine Experience", discussed the reflections of Bond by Pope Benedict XVI's first social encyclical and how these may interact with various Filipino realities in the areas of economics, business, technology and sociology. The book is divided into two main parts. The first expounds on basic propositions of the encyclical, the second points out the principles of integral human development in Philippine agriculture, network governance, management of cooperatives and micro-finance, corporate social responsibility legislation, pro-life movements, and social entrepreneurship. It concludes that an interdisciplinary and humanistic approach can result in more effective solutions to the problems of Philippine development. The book was written by world-renowned ethics expert professor Antonio Argandoña of IESE Business School in Barcelona, Spain. "Selected Papers on Caritas in Veritate: The Philippine Experience" is now on sale at the SMAP bookstores and in all outlets of Centralbooks. For information and book orders, contact the SMAP Center for Research and Communication at 639-0674 or e-mail nanygrace.castro@uap.asia.

St. Jude College is No. 1 in PT licensure exams

ST. JUDE College and Medical Center is proud of its physical therapist graduates for topping the licensure examination administered recently by the Professional Regulation Commission. Emilie Antonio Aguilar topped the exam with an average score of 85.25 while two other students landed on the top 10. They were Jude Flores-Jayag Calayan, who ranked seventh, and Cindy Mina Ibalaine, who ranked 10th. From among 2,118 board passers, 1,746 were recommended by Dr. Paulo Alvarez, dean of the College of Rehabilitative Sciences. Dr. Evangelina del Rosario - president/CEO; Dr. Reynaldo de Dagda - AVP/M, and Dr. Teresita S. Corpuz - VPM/ED/DVP/P SJCMC posted a 72.22 percent passing rate in this year's licensure examination.

CCP Intrams 2011 opening

THE NATIONAL cheerleading champion CCP Bobcats, pep squad and pride of Central College of the Philippines (CCP), performed a spectacular show during the recent opening of the CCP Intramurals 2011, highlighted by sport competitions featuring teams from the various departments of the university, including the high school department. Justin Julian Manuel, a high school sophomore, was chosen Mr. CCP Intramu 2011. Showing the friendly dimension of the games, CCP president Cesario P. Reyes lauded the cross-rivalry attributed to female great football coach Vince Lombardi that "winning isn't everything; it's the only thing," to which he added, "above all else, competition is about goodwill and friendship." The CCP Intramurals is held each calendar year in the championships the February to coincide with the CCP Foundation Week festivities.

PNU PROFESSOR CITED FOR UNESCO OUTSTANDING SERVICE

At a recognition ceremony held recently at Samuel Lounge of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Jeanette E. Suaner (left), deputy executive director of the Unesco National Commission of the Philippines (Unacom), presents a citation for outstanding service to Prof. Nena C. Herrera of Philippine Normal University (PNU) in the Philippines as the Philippine coordinator for Unesco Associated Schools. Twenty one schools were accredited as members of ASPnet. Nine Unesco Clubs were also cited.

LPU, PHILNETS SIGN MOA FOR IT PASSPORT

Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU), through the initiative of its College of Computer Studies (CCS), recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to partner with the Philippine National Information Technology Standards Foundation (PHILNETS). This partnership, in cooperation with the Japan External Trade Organization (JetRo), seeks to train and develop IT users through the IT Passport Level 1 Certification. Photo shows LPU vice president for academic affairs Dr. Cenaida Nipa (2nd from right) shaking hands with PHILNETS president Ma. Corazon Akol. Looking on are expert (director) Keiko (2nd from left) and CPA (CS) dean Samuel Chua (right).

TIP GRAD TOPS LICENSURE EXAM

ANTONIO Jilo (NET) G. Macaraig, a March 2010 cum laude graduate of Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSE) major in Mathematics from the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) Manila, topped the electronics engineer licensure examination given by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in November. Macaraig is the fourth TIP graduate to top the engineering licensure examinations in the last three years. He is the 16th topnotcher in the 16 years since the PRC started the practice of releasing the exam ranks TIP president, Dr. Elizabeth Lalic, MNursing (the awarding ceremony are (from left) Dr. Elizabeth Padre, dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture; Dr. Cynthia Lanes, vice president for academic affairs; and Macaraig's parents, Benito and Roberta Macaraig Sr.

CONSORTIUM OF THE SOUTH

Commissioner Atty. Rowena Guanzon (CHED) chair Patricia Licuanan, PhD (right), administers the oath of office of (from left) Dr. Anthony Tamayo, chair, UPMSO; Dean Clarence Bitanga, DDS, treasurer, SBC following; Dr. Mari Fermelo, business manager, Southville; Dr. Cris Obsioc, vice-chair, Silliman College; Mary Tabo, PhD, DLSU-Dasmariñas; Dr. Lucrecio Rivera, secretary, UPMSO; the newly installed officers of the educational institution consortium to be South Metro Luzon Collaborative Academic Network (SOMECAN) which aims to develop a wholesome and cooperative program among private and non-profit higher education institutions in identified areas for resource sharing and exchange.

SWISS EMBASSY PARTNERS WITH BEP

Swiss Embassy's deputy head of mission Juraj Cassarini (left) shakes the hand of Bato Balani Foundation Inc. (BBFI) chair Salvacion G. Belen, right) after they formally signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) designating BBFI implementer of the Swiss Embassy's Basic Education for All projects at the Central Mindanao University in Bukidnon. BBFI is the exclusive Philippine licensee of the life long program, a Swiss designed five-day business training course for students to expand their know-how in running a business.

'If I were a math teacher'

MY CURRENT college students, most of whom are taking their last mathematics class, offer advice to teachers. "Teen suggestions are helpful not just for math, but for practically any other subject.

Demand the best

Ms. Lesley Hinge says: if I were a math teacher, my first step would be to gain the respect of my students. I would make the class know that I mean what I say and that I am not going to let them slack off.

My second step would be to learn more about my students. Math can be confusing for many students, and without a method of reaching out to them, making them feel it is all right to ask questions and to admit that they do not understand the topic, it will be hard to gauge whether my students' silence indicates profundity or ignorance.

I would strive to deliver the lessons with maximum impact. Students who understand math but have not developed their abilities because they did not practice math when they were younger shouldn't be encouraged to do regular homework and exercises. It has taken me a long time to realize that the only way to learn math is through practice. Students have to keep at it, and persevere through tough problems.

The best teachers take the time to understand where their students are coming from and what they are going through. They push their students to be the best they can be, keeping in mind their disadvantages. They demand the best, but in ways that make the students realize why. They teach not only math, but also discipline and perseverance.

Think out of the box

Jaime Miguel Barcelon says: What makes math teachers great is when they think out of the box. They incorporate in their teaching what they are used to in their interests.

If I were to teach math, I would take a more theoretical approach. I would turn lectures into a performance of sorts because that's the world I know and what I'm comfortable with.

Math can be very difficult for some people, and the only way to get through to them is to make the subject interesting.

I will have faith in my students. If they know that their teacher believes in them, they will believe in their capability. Teachers can change students' lives. The best ones realize that they have the power to make changes for the better.

Math as play

Manuel Antonio Miranda says: If I were a math teacher, I would encourage my students to develop their own tactics and view math as play. I like thinking of things as games because I am a child at heart. I don't want my students to think that math is a terrifying subject, but rather a tool in the bigger game called life.

As with any game, I will practice my lessons before going to the battlefield. Students' silence and sleepiness trigger defeat. I have to focus on keeping them interested and motivated to listen. To reach well, I should know the topic well.

As a math teacher, I may have to start with the basics. I believe students lose self-esteem when they do not know what they are doing. Teachers expect students will not forget the basics. The first to, most students do.

The problem, of course, is time. Class time may be restricted but this may not be synonymous for most students. Ansels, or solution is to let students address issues on the past with the help of the lessons or textbooks.

Inspire and motivate

Carlo Micarlo Hermosa says: If I were a math teacher, I would not close the math morning to fighten the mood—a personal or inspirational story about not giving up and believing in one's self. The stories could be about famous people—Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, Michael Jordan—and how they achieved great things despite obstacles.

I will show the class that the world is a wonderful, though difficult place, but there are many people who can show us ways to overcome difficulties, be it poverty, doom and faith. While students have to learn the reality of the world, they should realize there is also so much goodness to us.

Aside from intention, people need basic knowledge.

To be a good teacher, it is important to structure the lessons. I will use the "What, When, Who and How" system.

What is the lesson? I will introduce the topic by giving its definition, and then I will explain the formula and provide the terms and basic things to know.

When do we apply this lesson? When is the formula used? When is the theorem helpful? I will show samples, problems and explain how the lesson is incorporated into the problem.

Why do we need this lesson? I will explain the purpose of the lesson, citing real life situations that students can relate to.

How do we go about this? I will show how the procedure is done, how to apply the formula, and so forth.

If lessons are presented in a clear and orderly manner, understanding will come. Students will also learn to incorporate this sequential learning into their study habits.

Relate math to students

Harvey Nicol Chua says: if I were a math teacher, I would make it easier for students to relate to the subject. I know there are certain things in math, like fundamental concepts, that cannot be augmented and must be taken like a bitter pill, but appropriate steps must be taken to ensure that lessons are geared towards the students' characteristics. For example, I might have been more inspired to excel in math if I saw how it would lead to my understanding of electron or game theory.

I will try to solve the aggressiveness of math—the cold, hard language that covers like a dark cloud the potential for learning. The cloud must be lifted by patient teachers who can translate jargon into simple language. That step taken, kids and teens can understand. Alarm bells should ring when a teacher responds to the question, "Why y?" with the answer "Because I mentioned so in class."

The best way to improve math education though, is to give more time to the subject. With all its complexities, math should be given priority and more time every week. Math formulas and theorems are learned through rote. Learning them requires more time, aside from the need for students to practice on their own.

E-mail the author at bleu-thunk@yahoo.com

Pursuing excellence through diversity

PUERTO Princesa International School (PIS) is a private, nonsectarian, nonhistorical institution centered on premium peace, understanding and academic excellence through diversity.

Offering K-12 education (preschool, elementary and high school), PIS seeks to achieve global competence. Its students, coming from 19 countries, have consistently performed well in both academic and nonacademic areas.

The school has two campuses. The Annapolis campus offers preschool and elementary education, while the Sanchez campus is for high school.

PIS traces its origins to the Integrative Center for Alternative Development (Icad) Foundation Inc., founded in 1996, and the Filipino-Turkish Education School set up a year later in Tombongon City.

PIS was established in 2002, guided by the ethos "where love and concern spell success."

In the past years, PIS students have achieved distinction in national and international science and math olympics, winning gold medals in the 1st International Young Inventors Physics Project Olympiad and emerging as champions in the MZM Deepfield Benchmark Challenge regional levels, among others.

PIS follows a curriculum oriented on higher learning objectives in science, mathematics and English. Its teachers, composed of premium peace, understanding and academic excellence through diversity. Modern and innovative textbooks are used in class work.

A small class size (a maximum of 30 students in high school and 24 students in grade school) allows for greater and more challenging teacher-student interaction. PIS faculty is composed of teachers from the Philippines, England, Turkey and China.

Developing global individuals is essential to PIS so that it holds several international programs. The international scholarship/students exchange program enables students from Turkey to pursue their college education in the Philippines. Similarly, deserving Filipino students are sent to Turkey to finish their high school or college studies.

The program not only enhances global competencies but also strengthens cultural ties between the two countries.

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PIS also has a unique program that pairs high school students with younger children as reading buddies. This program not only helps the younger students in their reading skills but also encourages the high school students to develop their leadership skills.

PIS trains its students to become responsible citizens of the world. Through its community service program, students are encouraged to help the less fortunate and to be aware of the environment.

PIS is also a recognized testing center for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

For more information, visit www.pis.edu.ph or call 723-7397 to 98.

Learn Chinese your own way

THE ATENEO de Manila University's Confucius Institute offers customized one-on-one lessons to help students learn Chinese the way they want.

In the institute, students can have special one-on-one sessions and learn Chinese in a way designed to suit their own needs and interests and at their own pace.

Dr. Ellen Palanca, institute director, says students learn Chinese for various reasons as changes in their lives occur.

A group of company executives took the class to prepare for the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK), the Chinese language test equivalent of TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The class was customized to meet the interest, goal and motivation of the group.

Some students are Filipinos who have overseas jobs requiring Chinese language knowledge. Other students are kids, from 8 years old, whose parents want them to get a head start in learning the language.

Even members of the diplomatic community are now enrolling in the Confucius Institute's Chinese language classes.

An ambassador is currently taking the one-on-one class. The teacher goes to his residency regularly to continue the class.

A Dutch diplomat also took the one-on-one class and commended the institute for the way it organizes things and for the convenience of the location.

Palanca says many people prefer the one-on-one sessions because they can be adapted to individual schedules and students learn as much more in a short time. There is also more interaction.

Celestine Chua, one of CI's instructors, points out that, in a classroom, there is very little personal interaction between teacher and learner.

In one-on-one classes, students are being their own learning materials, are their own pace and clear their own learning goals.

THE CONFUCIUS Institute's Experience Center

Confucius Institute understands that students seek to learn things that apply to what they are dealing with in everyday life.

Visit http://www.ateneoconfucius.com or call 8115417. You may also visit their new office at the 6th floor, Ateneo Professional Schools, 150 N.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Math enrichment program

SCHOLASTIC INC., the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books and a leader in educational technology and children's media, is launching a program to address the poor mathematics or math literacy in the Philippines.

Scholastic is piloting its Assessment and Enrichment Program for Math (AEP-Math), a supplementary program for the math curriculum from preparatory to second year high school.

Frank Wang, president of Scholastic Asia, said the company had much success applying a scientific principle to match books with readers.

Rich with 30,000 students enrolled in the Assessment and Enrichment Program for Reading (AEP-Reading), Scholastic is applying the same principle to math to help kids acquire the skills they need and make math fun.

Scholastic educational consultant Hyeper Lepid said there was a need for direct and explicit instruction in math. He said software-based individualized math programs could not address the needs of the majority.

He added that there was a lack of professional development in math, as a result of which efforts are required in becoming a math teacher.

Lepid said teachers also lacked tools and training in the subject.

Rosella Mazing, Scholastic education and trade manager, said the company developed math enrichment program in the country. It was based on a program studied proven to work and would use well researched resources and systems developed by credible organizations and institutions. It was developed locally to adapt to the Philippine situation.

Lepid said AEP aimed to make math fun for both teachers and students and establish it as a "thinking" subject, rather than one based on procedure and rote memorization.

He said experiencing math concepts would help students build lasting skills.

A-ON PARTNERSHIP

Sun Cellular and the University of the Philippines' Asian Institute for Intercultural Studies (Luihsin ni Xinxue Kuanxiqun ni Corporation (AIISEC) have announced a partnership, with Sun offering the organization support in promoting its international products and services. AIISEC's Global Internship Program (GIP) gives interns from all over the world an opportunity to study and be trained in the country. With Sun's Call and Text International 599 (CTTI) and Text-TXT Tawag call cards, the interns can stay connected with and updated on family and friends even if they are miles away. At the signing of the partnership agreement are (L-R) Liz Garcia, AVP for intercharge marketing; Elmo Villaruz, Sun Cellular AVP for brand activations; and Audrey Ibardaloza, AVP for external relations.

Best practices for financial controllers

THE CENTER for Global Best Practices (www.cgbp.org) will hold a special CPE-accredited seminar on "Best Practices for Financial Controllers" Feb. 17-18, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the New World Hotel in Makati City.

The seminar is the only best practices program geared to help current and future financial controllers maximize their potential, improve their skills and create real value for their companies.

Mary Jane D. Bendaña, CPA, CPA, will share her experience handling finance, controllership and risk management work for Bayan Corp. She was president of The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) of the Philippines in 2008.

The other speaker is Glenda B. Ilmas, vice president and group controller of the Ideas Pacific Investment Corporation (MPIC), the largest infrastructure company in the Philippines. Also on board is the CFO of Strategic Landbank Management Group, Ayala Land Inc.

Details and the registration form for the two-day, limited seats only event are available at CGBP's website, www.cgbp.org. Interested participants may also call program manager Emma Ogang at (Manila) 02-8427106/07; 02-5060904/05; and (Cebu) 032-2122106/07, or e-mail jessica@cgbp.org.

Pre-registration is required.

Batanes photo safari begins Feb. 25

GET/GIVE your entries in photography. Join the Batanes Photo Safari Feb. 25-28. Mail 10-20 4x6/5-7 4x6s/8-15 24 bright passengers by overnight ship to Bagali. Learn fashion and glamour, architectural, portraiture, nature/landscape and macro photography while visiting different places in Batanes. E-mail mandrewsevens@yahoo.com or call 8881133 or visit http://mandy-marsaw.blogspot.com

PH TEAM BAGS AWARD AT ASEAN COMPETITION

The MFI Technological Institute (MFI-TI) team received the Best of the Nation Award in the recent 8th World Skills Asean competition in Thailand. Despite training for only two weeks with competition sponsor China Yitong Science and Technology Group Ltd., Leo Pablo Bulalacao and Brian Adams Tamayo (second and third from left, respectively) earned enough points to receive a medal of excellence in the automation production category, aside from the Best of the Nation medal. The Philippine team also competed in electronics, welding and electrical installations technology where MFI-TI alumni and student Agot Cabriga participated. Others in photo are instrumentation instructor Ramiele Dasanay (left) and MFI education group director Charles M. Velasco (right).

Stay Away, Tooth Decay!

Dr. Angela R. Fernandez, DMD, FICD,
Chairman of the Philippine Dental Association
Committee on Dental Public Health 2011

A toothache can ruin anyone's day as it can paralyze one's ability to go about their daily activities. This is why it is important to know how to prevent tooth decay through preventive dental trends that are available today.

From a dentist's perspective, preventing tooth decay is generally about basic oral hygiene, including:

- Eating a well-balanced diet
- Regular brushing of teeth with fluoridated toothpaste, flossing and rinsing with mouthwash after meals
- Visiting the dentist every 6 months

But in addition to these, advances in the dental industry have extended the dentists' recommendation for dental caries prevention. The next time you visit your dentist, ask about the following:

- Supplemental fluoride that strengthens teeth
- Dental sealants - a type of coating applied on the chewing surface of the teeth, especially in the molars
- Dental remineralization - application of fluoride varnish on the tooth surface
- Fluoridated water

The latest dental research results also show that chewing of dental health gum containing xylitol retards the growth of tooth decay causing bacteria. Xylitol is a natural sugar substitute that has proven dental benefits such as prevention of tooth decay, reduction of dental plaque and even stimulates remineralization (or hardening) of the teeth.

Simply observing the very basic proper oral hygiene, in combination with the latest dental treatments, will surely keep the toothaches away!

www.pda.ph

Choose The Right Chews

Parents always remind their kids how chewing gum and bubble gum are bad for the teeth. That's because these contain sugar that promotes tooth decay. However, many are not aware that there is actually a type of gum called dental health gum that is quite different from ordinary chewing gum or bubble gum that kids usually enjoy.

Characteristics of Dental Health Gum in general:
- Contains sugar substitutes that do not harm teeth.
- Gives dental benefits beyond simple breath-freshening
- Promotes better oral health
- Reduces, and in some cases, prevents tooth decay

Dental health gum may sound like such a miracle gum since it allows everyone to enjoy chewing gum without worrying about their teeth. But not all kinds of dental health gum are the same. Studies have shown that Sorbitol or Mannitol based gums can still promote the formation of plaque. The good news is that there is a Xylitol-based dental health gum that actually is totally tooth-friendly.

Benefits of Dental Health Gum with Xylitol:
- Reduces cavity-causing bacteria that feed on sugar
- Promotes saliva flow for healthy pH levels in the mouth
- Prevents tooth decay
- Reduces plaque

So the next time you want to chew gum, get a dental health gum. And make sure that it's the one with more than 50% Xylitol, which is recommended by dentists to help protect your teeth.

PDA
XYLITOL
DENTAL HEALTH GUM
Good Habits. Good Teeth.

www.betterxylitolgum.com

Helping children fill up on learning

SOME 30 percent of Tulong Ang ng Pulso beneficiaries come from families whose members work in the public transport sector.

OVER 1,300 children from marginalized families have benefited from Tulong Ang ng Pulso.

Of the number, nearly 30 percent come from families engaged in public transport.

The flagship educational program of Pulso Cebu, Tulong Ang ng Pulso started in 2003. The initiative helps children from poverty-stricken families to complete their elementary and secondary schooling by providing support, such as the rest of uniforms, school supplies and meal allowances.

Jeanne Subito said Pulso may a big help, allowing them to buy bag and shoes. So said his younger siblings were able to use his old books because every year they get new supplies. Subito has been a literacy scholar since Grade 1.

Aside from financial support, Tulong Ang also ensures that the scholars' parents are engaged and understand the importance of education for their children's future. Parents are "enrolled" in mentoring and livelihood programs.

The program also gives teachers more training in important subjects such as mathematics, science and English. With this holistic approach, the Tulong Ang program helps children stay in school and do well.

With over 1,300 scholars nationwide, Tulong Ang ng Pulso is a long-term, strategic initiative anchored on Pulso's program called Pusi (GPS or Helping Overcome Poverty through Education).

Under Pusi GPS, the company has already built 32 new classrooms across the country.

A special partnership with the United States Agency for International Development has enabled Pulso to add 40 new classrooms and repair 200 classrooms in conflict-affected areas of Western Mindanao.

Dexter Chan and chief executive officer Ramon S. Ang said, as a Filipino company that puts importance to sustainable development, Pulso was committed to improve the lives of less privileged Filipinos.

Tulong Ang not only gave children the chance to acquire knowledge, but also gave them the tools, the values and the inspiration to have a better life.

Beyond basic education, the company also supports the development of the youth through an entrepreneurship program. For given high school students on the-job training at select Pulso service stations and its beaches. Pulso employees also regularly mentor college students under the Junior Achievement of the Philippines' mini-company program that provides practical training in business management.

A 12-CLASSROOM Pulso School in Leyte, Bohol, serves hundreds of children.

Grants for women in postgraduate sciences

THE DEADLINE for application for the For Women in Science National Fellowships (FWSN)-Philippines has been extended to Feb. 18.

The $40,000 research grant is open to Filipina women scientists in the life and material sciences who are 35 years old or younger.

FWSN is a partnership among L'Oréal Philippines, Department of Science and Technology and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Luc Olivier Mampay, managing director of L'Oréal Philippines, said the company had been assisting women scientists globally for almost 11 years now through FWSN grants. The grants will be available to 15 women scientists pursuing or already have a doctor in philosophy degree in any field of science.

Summer Rosemary Slam-Alamayo said the FWSN grant would help boost scientific research in the country.

Log on to www.pnia.com.ph or contact the FWSN Secretariat at forwomenscience@pnia.com.ph or call 8959842 local 130/131.

Holy Spirit homecoming

THE COLLEGE of the Holy Spirit Manila Alumnae Foundation (53-HAF) will hold a homecoming "Day in Feb. 6. Made of the motto, number "Celebration of Life," are high school graduates—Classes 1945, 1955, 1965, 1966, 1975, 1985 and 1986. The day will start with registration and fellowship.

8:30-9:45 a.m.: Thanksgiving Mass, 10 a.m.: CHOAF report and recognitions/awards, 12-1 p.m.: lunch, 2-3 p.m.: Show time from 3:30 p.m. will feature "High School Musicalized" and more fellowship.

Visit the CHS Alumnae Foundation website, http://chsafi.webs.com.

ALL FOR ONE LA SALLE

La Salle Greenhills (LSGH) High School Class of 1986, two of its (now) 13 school homecoming on Feb. 5, organized a relay race around the city's central Greenhills Run at Rockville Global City in Taguig to raise funds for the Oro La Salle Scholarship Fund. Students are classmates Lawyer Albert Vidaurre, Dr. Louie Navarro, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño, Vice Benavente (not to see Julius) and Dr. Joey Quisumbing (not to Diana Pitpitan-Bonoan). A classmate recalls that Casiño at LSGH was not yet the activist he would later become at the University of the Philippines, although he was active in the Student Council. He was also a leader in the class' spiritual retreat and played the trombone in the school band.